Monday, June 1, 2026 No 151 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Satwik-Chirag end title drought

Indian ace pair wear maiden Singapore Open crown

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Sports

Para-athlete Chirag shot dead days after winning gold in B'luru P.13

Business

India's electric moment, still in motion P.11

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Nepal PM's 'encroaching' Indian land sparks row P.7

Nation

Menstrual leave in KL schools triggers 'privacy' row

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PoK youth crosses LoC after social media romance, held

SRINAGAR, DHNS & PTI: Driven by love that blossomed on social media, 22-year-old Zeeshan Mir from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir crossed the heavily fortified Line of Control (LoC) into North Kashmir's Uri sector, only to be apprehended by the army, officials said here on Sunday.

According to officials privy to the ongoing investigation, Mir was deeply troubled by his family in Muzaffarabad, who were pressuring him to earn a living and shoulder financial burdens.

They said, prima facie, Mir looked "innocent and deeply distressed", and fell into severe depression due to the persistent domestic strife.

During this period, Mir connected with Irum Bano, a resident of Tulwari village, over Snapchat, and their bond deepened. Officials said that under the duo's plan, Mir was supposed to cross the LoC and surrender to the army and serve a legal sentence, and later, Mir would legally claim his family's ancestral property in the village to settle down.

Rogue signals, encrypted networks spark alarm in J&K

Border districts see suspicious communication activity

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir are examining emerging concerns over what officials describe as irregular telecom signals and encrypted communication patterns that may be facilitating cross-border coordination linked to militancy in the Union Territory (UT).

Signal traces and suspicious communication activity have been reported from several border districts, including Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch, while some inputs also suggest possible anomalies extending towards sensitive interior zones in Jammu, including the high-security Kot Bhalwal jail. These inputs are being analysed to assess their operational significance, sources said.

Officials clarified that these are part of ongoing technical assessments and do not amount to confirmed breaches of communication system.

Security concern

Encrypted communication patterns under agency review

Suspicious activity traced in Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch

Inputs suggest anomalies near Kot Bhalwal jail

Officials stress no systemic breach; inputs remain under verification

Counter-infiltration grid uses electronic intelligence, cyber-pattern analysis

The counter-infiltration grid in J&K increasingly relies on electronic intelligence, signal monitoring and cyber-pattern analysis, along with conventional surveillance along the Line of Control (LoC).

Sources said the evolving threat environment is forcing agencies to adapt to communication methods that are harder to trace through conventional interception systems.

Security personnel during an anti-terror operation in the Dori Mal forest area near Gambhi Mughlan in Rajouri. PTI

Encrypted messaging platforms and anonymised digital communication tools are being monitored in certain operational contexts in the UT to assess whether they are being used for coordination between handlers and operatives across the border, they added.

Security agencies, however, said these inputs remain under verification and cannot be treated as established findings.

Prison communication

A parallel concern has emerged around prison communication security. Jammu & Kashmir has 14 jails and two correctional homes. Officials said standard jamming systems deployed in some facilities are periodically reviewed for effectiveness.

Internal assessments have flagged instances of possible illicit communication through contraband mobile devices in some prison environments, though no systemic breach has been formally established, officials said.

Authorities are now examining the feasibility of deploying more targeted, zone-specific communication control systems capable of isolating illicit signals without disrupting civilian networks in surrounding areas.

The broader concern among security planners is the increasing complexity of cross-border coordination networks, where traditional infiltration attempts are believed to be supplemented by remote communication channels and digital facilitation mechanisms.

Previous counter-network operations, particularly around 2019-20, focused on disrupting encrypted communication chains used for coordination. Similar efforts continue as part of the ongoing counter-terrorism strategy, sources said.

Officials have also flagged concerns regarding telecom infrastructure across the border, with communication systems in Pakistan-occupied territories believed to enable structured contact between handlers and field operatives. These inputs remain part of the intelligence review.

If validated, such patterns indicate an evolving security challenge, where infiltration attempts are increasingly supported by technology-enabled coordination systems, requiring integrated physical and electronic surveillance responses. Further assessment is underway as part of routine intelligence and border management operations.

'Overground ISI workers urged to join Indian parties'

SRINAGAR, PTI

TERROR PLAN

- ISI has asked its established network of OGWs in J&K to infiltrate mainstream national political parties, say officials
- It is also making desperate attempts to revive dormant, locally-founded terror outfits from the early 1990s, they add
- This is how ISI hopes to shield assets from ongoing security operations

In a move aimed at evading security crackdown and investigation into terror incidents, Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has asked its established network of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) in Jammu and Kashmir to infiltrate mainstream national political parties, officials said on Sunday.

The ISI is also trying to recalibrate its strategy by making desperate attempts to revive dormant, locally-founded terror outfits from the early 1990s to give an "indigenous colour" to terrorist violence and mask the direct involvement of Pakistan, which is facing constant monitoring by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — the global money-laundering and terror-financing watchdog.

Central security agencies' officials said recent interrogations of OGWs arrested by the Srinagar Police showed some of them were part of national political parties.

By embedding terror sympathisers — who can provide critical logistical support, recruitment, and funding — in legitimate political structures, the ISI hopes to shield its assets from the ongoing security operations.

The officials said the strategy stems from a sense of desperation, and explained that the ISI is running out of options because its conventional terror groups are under intense pressure from security forces, and the local support base for newer proxy outfits has shrunk significantly.

By trying to resurrect old names and blending its workers into mainstream politics, it is attempting to capitalise on a historical narrative to lure a new generation of youth while buying political immunity for operatives.

According to officials, OGWs cornered during cordon-and-search operations often try to flash basic membership cards of national political parties in a futile bid to escape the dragnet.

Security officials have noted that this tactic has evolved over the decades as suspects routinely used voter identity cards to evade police in the late 1990s, and later tried to use Aadhar cards to dodge deep investigations.

The officials made it clear that no political leadership has ever stepped in to save such people.

In a related development, the OGW activities have been seen in reviving outfits that had become largely defunct after 1993.

The security agencies are now closely tracking the resurfacing of names of terror groups that defined the initial, bloody phase of the Jammu and Kashmir terror in the 1990s and early 2000s, including Al-Umar Mujahideen, Al Badr and Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor (left) with Tiffany Ariana Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump, and her husband and businessman Michael Boulos at the Jaisalmer Fort in Rajasthan on Sunday. PTI

Donald Trump's daughter visits Jaisalmer

JAISALMER, PTI: Tiffany Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump, visited the historic Sonar Fort in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Sunday evening as part of her trip to the desert city with her husband Michael Boulos, officials said.

The couple arrived earlier in the day at Jaisalmer Civil Airport from Delhi on a special aircraft amid tight security arrangements. District Collector Anupama Jorwal and Superintendent of Police Abhishek Shivhare received them.

In the evening, the couple reached the iconic Sonar Fort, where they toured the fort premises in a golf cart. The VVIP guests visited the fort museum and were introduced to the rich art, culture and history of the region.

Special arrangements have been made for their stay at a luxury hotel on Sam Road, with multi-layered security deployed across the city. After an overnight stay in Jaisalmer, they are expected to return to Delhi on Monday, officials said.

India-Bangladesh border talks in Delhi next week

First such meeting after BNP took charge in Dhaka

NEW DELHI, PTI

India and Bangladesh are expected to hold their bi-annual Director General (DG)-level border talks in Delhi next week — the first such meeting after the BNP government took charge in Dhaka early this year.

Issues related to border fencing, attacks on Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, checking infiltration and cross-border crimes, and handing over of illegal Bangladeshi migrants are likely to be part of the agenda for the talks, sources said.

A delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) led by its DG Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui is expected to be in the national capital between June 8 and 11 for the talks with their counterpart BSF. The Indian side will be led by BSF DG Praveen Kumar.

India shares a 4,096-km-long international border with Bangladesh, out of which about 860 km remains unfenced, including 174.51 km that is considered "not feasible for fencing".

Officials told PTI that the DG-level talks are to be held between June 8 and 11 at a BSF base in Delhi.

They said that issues related to cross-border crimes and cooperation were expected to be the crux of discussions. A joint record of discussions will be signed between the two sides on June 11, they said.

Sources in the security establishment noted that this would be the first top-level border meeting between the two forces after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was elected to power in February this year.

The last meeting between the two sides was held in Dhaka in August 2025, when an interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus was in power in Bangladesh.

The forthcoming meeting assumes significance as the Central government, through the public speeches of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has underlined that India will not allow illegal infiltration of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas.

The government asserted that all such people present in India would face a graded "3D" action: detect, delete, and deport.

More than half of the over-4,000-km Indo-Bangla border is shared by West Bengal (2,216.7 km), where a new BJP government led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari took charge recently.

New Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (left) with outgoing CNS Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi during a ceremony marking his assumption of charge in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Military reforms, tri-services synergy to be priority: New CDS

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gen NS Raja Subramani, widely known as an expert on Pakistan and China, on Sunday took charge as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) with a primary mandate to implement the ambitious military theaterisation plan and bolster tri-services synergy.

He succeeded Gen Anil Chauhan, who signed off after completing his tenure as the country's senior-most military commander on Saturday.

Gen Subramani was serving as the Military Advisor at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). He retired as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on July 31 last year.

The military officer, shortly after taking charge, said transformation of the armed forces and organisational reforms to enhance tri-services synergy and integration will be his primary focus. "We will accelerate the development, induction and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces," he said in a media statement.

Gen NS Raja Subramani

"Our armed forces consistently demonstrated professionalism and operational decisiveness in safeguarding our national interests. We are committed to protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country," he added.

Gen Subramani noted that he would work towards accelerating the development, induction and integration of indigenous weapon systems into the armed forces.

"We are committed to implementing the vision of our prime minister — 'JAI' — Jointness, Atma Nirbharta and Innovation," he said.

In his illustrious career spanning over 40 years, Gen Subramani served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles. He served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from July 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

Menstrual leave in schools triggers 'privacy' row in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The UDF government's proposal to allow up to three days of menstrual leave to school students in Kerala has triggered a row over 'menstrual dignity'.

Noted women personalities like Kerala's first woman IPS officer R Sreelekha, who is now a BJP leader, and IUML senior woman leader Noorbina Rasheed are among those who raised concerns over the move.

Sreelekha said giving three days of menstrual leave could go against the efforts to empower women. "Giving menstrual leave could let others know when a student is having menstruation. Is that menstrual dignity? Isn't that a shame," she asked in a social media post.

She also added that instead of giving leave, sufficient support systems such as sanitary napkin vending machines should be ensured at schools.

With Sreelekha's social media post inviting criticisms that menstruation was not something to be ashamed of, she came out with a clarification that what she termed shameful was not menstruation, but the government's policy of making a hype over the plan to give menstruation leave.

Rahseed, a top leader of IUML's women wing Vanitha League, said the menstruation leave could affect the privacy of students. "The authorities should ensure that the privacy of girls are not affected while allowing menstrual leave," she said.

Meanwhile, Education Minister N Samsudheen said the menstrual leave would be provided only as an option. "The policy was initiated considering the difficulties faced by many students during menstruation. In case of any different opinion about giving the leave, the government will consider that too," he said.

The plan to give menstrual leave for school students was announced in the first policy address of the UDF government on Friday. Kerala is considered to be the first state to initiate menstrual leave at school level.

WILD COMEBACK

Kaziranga sees tourism boom with four-fold rise

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Significant improvement in law and order, elimination of negative elements such as rhino poaching and the introduction of new attractions in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), Assam's rhino hub, have boosted tourism, with footfall at the park recording a four-fold increase over the past decade.

According to data shared by park authorities, total tourist arrivals rose to 4.68 lakh in 2025-26 from 1.55 lakh in 2016-17. Notably, the number of foreign visitors increased from 6,682 to 30,474 during the same period. In the previous tourism season (2024-25), the figure stood at 17,693.

Although Kaziranga had witnessed a rise in tourism in recent years, the low inflow of foreign visitors remained a concern, despite improvements in law and order following peace agreements aimed at ending Assam's long militancy problem.

Park director Sonali Ghosh said the visit of Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024, and the presence of 60 heads of mission from several nations during the Advantage Assam 2 Investment Summit in February last year helped change perceptions of Assam and Kaziranga internationally.

Progress IN A DECADE

Total tourist arrivals rise to 4.68 lakh in 2025-26 from 1.55 lakh in 2016-17

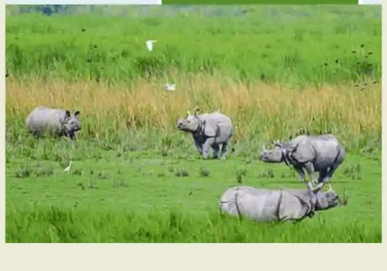
Foreign arrivals up from 6,682 to 30,474

Zero rhino poaching achieved since 2022

Peace accords and law-and-order gains aid inflow

Kaziranga hosts 'Big Five' wildlife attractions

BIRD SAFARI, CYCLING, JEEP AND BOAT RIDES ARE NEW DRAWS



"The total number of visitors has increased four-fold in the last 10 years. What is particularly remarkable is the rise in foreign tourists, who now account for an impressive 4.5% of total arrivals. This trend continued in May 2026, when 30,850 tourists, including 175 foreigners, visited Kaziranga," Ghosh said in a note.

Kaziranga is the world's largest habitat for one-horned rhinos (2,613 as per the 2022 census), though poaching remained a long-standing concern. A sustained crackdown since 2016 has checked the problem, and the park has achieved a zero-poaching target since 2022. Besides rhinos, Royal Bengal tigers, Asian elephants, wild water buffalo and eastern swamp deer — popularly called the 'Big Five' — are major attractions in Kaziranga, a Unesco Natural Heritage Site.

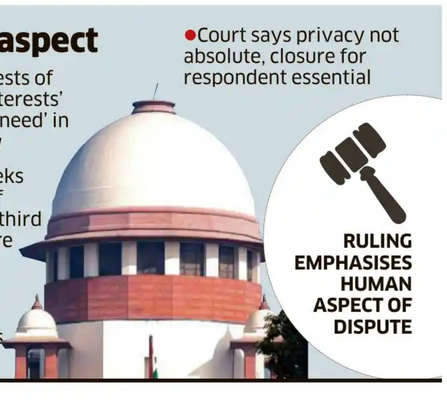
Ghosh said initiatives such as the bird safari in the Panbari range, cycling in Kohora, the Panpur jeep safari and the boat safari in Biswanath have added variety for tourists and nature lovers visiting Kaziranga.

DNA test permissible if paternity directly in issue: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Human aspect

- SC applies tests of 'balance of interests' and 'eminent need' in paternity row
- Civil suit seeks declaration of sonship, one-third property share
- Man argues DNA test not compulsory; privacy rights invoked
- Court says privacy not absolute, closure for respondent essential



RULING EMPHASISES HUMAN ASPECT OF DISPUTE

The Supreme Court has ruled that courts may order a DNA test in paternity disputes if the result is directly in issue, no other evidence can sufficiently resolve the question, and such a direction serves the interests of justice and the parties involved.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh upheld concurrent orders of a trial court in Basna and the Chhattisgarh High Court directing a DNA test to determine the paternity of a man claiming to be the son of Chaturbhuj Pradhan.

The apex court applied the tests of "balance of interests" and "eminent need" laid down in earlier judgments. It held that paternity was directly in question in the civil suit seeking a declaration of sonship and a one-third share in the appellant's property. No other evidence on record could provide a conclusive answer, and earlier maintenance proceedings did not operate as res judicata, the bench said.

Dismissing the appeal filed by Pradhan, the SC directed the civil court to conduct the DNA test and proceed with the suit accordingly.

According to the case details, respondent Amar claims to be the son of Pradhan. He was born on September 10, 1999, allegedly from a consensual relationship his mother had with the appellant in January 1999.

Pradhan has consistently denied paternity. He was earlier acquitted in a rape case filed by Amar's mother under Section 376 of the IPC.

Multiple maintenance proceedings were filed between 2003 and 2010. Amar later filed a civil suit for a declaration of paternity and a share in property. Both the trial court and the High Court ordered the DNA test. Pradhan argued before the top court that he could not be compelled to undergo a DNA test and that there was no compelling necessity for such a direction.

Amar's counsel countered that continuous denial of paternity left no other recourse and that the balance of interests favoured the respondent. The right to privacy, though available to the appellant, was not absolute.

In its May 29 judgment, the court emphasised the human aspect of the dispute. "As far as the right of privacy is concerned, we are balancing the appellant's privacy with the respondent's desire for closure on a question that has loomed large on his life throughout... If no positive answer is ever found... it is quite possible that Amar would forever be denied the rights he may otherwise be entitled to," the SC said.

It directed the civil court to fix a date for the DNA test and proceed with the suit based on the results.

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The Power of Good

Another TMC leader attacked; party plans protest

Kalyan Banerjee suffers head injury; 5 held for attack on Abhishek

Page 6

Military reforms, tri-services synergy to be priority: CDS Raja Subramani

OSM row: CBSE admits portal vulnerabilities

Ethical hacker points out another loophole in OnMark

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has acknowledged vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal used by its service provider and said that they have been contained. It added that efforts are underway to rule out any other exploitable weaknesses.

In a statement, the CBSE said that it is "closely monitoring" the situation, "... vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal of our service provider are being flagged in the public domain. An expert team of cybersecurity professionals has been deployed over the last few days from across various arms of the government as well as the IITs to fortify these systems, including taking them over to a more secure setup."

"We are grateful to all alert citizens and ethical hackers pointing out such weaknesses, and have gotten in touch with some of them directly. We request that any others reach out to our security teams at secy-cbse@nic.in for any further inputs," it further said.

Ethical hacker Nisarga Adhikary pointed out yet another loophole in the portal. He hinted at a serious security flaw and showed how they could "paginate and enumerate" answer sheets and question papers. "... anyone on the Internet can download any scanned booklet — across institutions. Multiple institutions are using the same bucket, insanely insecure," he posted on X with photos showing how the papers were possibly photographed by a mobile phone, but not scanned.

The controversy began when Nisarga Adhikary, a Class 12 student, claimed that he had accessed CBSE systems and uncovered security flaws in the OSM portal. Nisarga pointed out that the government ignored him when he raised "critical vulnerabilities" in the portal.

Another student, Sarthak Sidhant, had highlighted preferential treatment to a particular service provider.

▸ CBSE, Page 5
Edit: Paper leaks, blotched valuation, broken trust, P 8

NSUI activists raise slogans against the CBSE, in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Rahul meets CBSE students

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday rallied behind students who were called "anti-nationals and Pakistanis" for asking "simple questions" to the Modi government over the CBSE OSM row and said they deserve a "bright and secure" future.
Details on Page 6

What is OSM marking?

The OnMark portal is a site used by the CBSE to carry out the OSM marking method. On the platform, instead of evaluating physically, the answer sheets are scanned and examiners evaluate these copies digitally. Principals of schools also have access to the platform to oversee the evaluation process.

5 turning points of the match

1. Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar removed GT's dangerous opening duo of Gill and Sudharsan cheaply, inside the Powerplay
2. Dar then dismissed Sindhu as GT could manage just 63/3 in 10 overs with Pandya and Duffy keeping them quiet
3. GT's move to send Sindhu ahead of Buttler, and Arshad Khan ahead of Holder and Tewatia failed spectacularly
4. The start provided by Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer (70/2 in 6 overs), effectively killed the chase
5. After an excellent Powerplay, RCB innings wobbled a bit but Kohli ensured trophy stayed with Bengaluru with a masterful 75*

Challengers reign continues

RED WAVE: Virat Kohli leads Bengaluru to back-to-back IPL glory

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru produced a thoroughly professional performance to decimate the Gujarat Titans by five wickets and become just the third team after heavyweights Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings to retain the IPL crown successfully.

Playing with a renewed purpose and vigour right from the very first match of the season, Royal Challengers brought their best to the table at a sold-out Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, and Gujarat, lacking a Plan B, were simply blown apart by the defending champions in all departments of the game.

First, it was the bowling that laid the foundation for RCB to join an illustrious club. Pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/29), Josh Hazlewood (2/37), and Rasikh Dar (3/27) produced top-notch performances to stifle Gujarat.

The talismanic Virat Kohli aced the chase with a brilliant unbeaten 75 off 42 balls.

Virat Kohli celebrates with teammates after guiding RCB to 5-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the IPL final on Sunday. AFP

RCB RESULTS IN FINALS

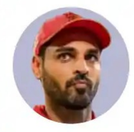
Year	Vs.	Venue	Result
2009	DC	Johannesburg	Lost by 6 runs
2011	CSK	Chennai	Lost by 58 runs
2016	SRH	Bengaluru	Lost by 8 runs
2025	PBKS	Ahmedabad	Won by 6 runs
2026	GT	Ahmedabad	Won by 5 wkts

CAPTAINS WITH BACK TO BACK TITLES

MS Dhoni	Rohit Sharma	Rajat Patidar
(CSK)	(MI)	(RCB)
2010, 2011	2019, 2020	2025, 2026

KEY RCB PERFORMERS

BATTING
V Kohli (R: 675; SR: 165.84)
R Patidar (R: 486; SR: 196.76)
D Padikkal (R: 464; SR: 168.72)
T David (R: 281, SR: 193.79)



BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar K (W: 28; Eco: 7.96)
Rasikh Dar (W: 18; Eco: 9.44)
J Hazlewood (W: 15; Eco: 9.59)
Krunal Pandya (W: 14; Eco: 8.41)

7 from K'taka killed in accident in Himachal

SHIMLA, PTI: Operations were underway on Sunday to pull out the bodies of seven tourists from Karnataka and a taxi driver, who were killed after their car fell into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh.

The deceased are Bengaluru resident Arvind Chandrakar, his wife Prachi, sons Darsh and Akshad; P G Karthikeyan, his wife Manimala and son Nandan, all residents of Karnataka, and the taxi driver Vishwas.

6 die as rickshaw crushed between SUV and lorry

CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS: Six persons, including five women labourers, were crushed to death in an accident in Chikkaballapur district on Sunday.

The victims were returning from work by an auto. An SUV rammed it from behind and as a result, the auto rear-ended a lorry. The auto driver and passengers were sandwiched between the two vehicles.
Details on Page 4
Five drown in Tungabhadra, Page 4

RBI likely to hold rates despite inflation fears

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep key policy interest rates unchanged in its second monetary policy review of the current financial year despite mounting inflationary pressure amid the ongoing West Asia crisis and forecast of a weak monsoon.

A three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the rate setting panel of the central bank, is scheduled to begin on Wednesday.
Details on Page 10

B'luru is 2nd expensive housing market

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru has emerged as India's second most expensive residential real estate market after Mumbai, reflecting the city's sustained demand momentum and growing economic prominence.

Average residential prices in Bengaluru rose 24% year-on-year to Rs 9,785 per sq ft in Q1 2026, up from Rs 7,881 per sq ft in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

The city outpaced other major property markets during the period. While residential prices in Mumbai increased by 20% and those in the National Capital Region (NCR) rose by 18%, Bengaluru recorded the strongest appreciation among the country's leading metropolitan markets.

Mumbai continues to command the highest residential property prices at an average of Rs 15,120 per sq ft

Bengaluru has overtaken NCR to become the second-costliest housing market. Average residential prices in NCR stood at Rs 9,534 per sq ft during the quarter, according to the report. It attributes Bengaluru's resilience to its diversified employment ecosystem, particularly the continued expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and the city's vibrant startup sector.

"The GCC and startup employment engine continues to prove more durable than conventional IT hiring cycles, providing Bengaluru with a structurally differentiated demand base that is less susceptible to sector-specific disruption," said Prakash Tejwani, CEO, PropTiger.
▸ Housing market, Page 5

SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN
SAAT-2026

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A++' · UGC Graded Autonomy(Category-I) · NBA Accredited · ICAR Accredited · NABL Accredited · NABH Accredited
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QUARRY TO BIG OFFICE

The Kanakapura rebel who loved silk shirts

ASHWIN BM
KANAKAPURA (BENGALURU SOUTH DIST), DHNS

For the public, D K Shivakumar is a political strategist, a troubleshooter and a powerful minister. But to his relatives, neighbours and residents of his native Kanakapura, 'DKS' remains the energetic, slightly rebellious Rajajinagar boy who loved silk shirts, dominated cross-country races and possessed an uncanny, sharp vision for the future long before entering public life.

In Kanakapura, and the adjoining villages of Kodihalli and Doddalahalli, located about 55 km from Bengaluru, Shivakumar's story is closely tied to the rocky land. People call him 'Bande' (The Rock). At his hometown, people who have known him since he was a young leader say his success comes from his family background, hard work and the changes he brought to the area.

Life in the village was tough and fun. Locals share a funny story about the massive well behind the house. The elders would throw the kids into the deep water to force them to learn how to swim.
▸ DKS, Page 5
What DK Shivakumar's elevation means for Bengaluru, Page 4

A large hoarding of CM-designate D K Shivakumar on the outskirts of Kanakapura. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

Siddu, DKS to meet Cong top brass today

Caretaker CM Siddaramaiah and his successor-to-be D K Shivakumar are likely to meet the Congress top brass in Delhi on Monday and deliberate on the first batch of ministers to be sworn in alongside Shivakumar. The first batch is likely to comprise 10-12 ministers.
Details on Page 4

Red & gold take over Bengaluru; RCB wins back-to-back IPLs

Fans wave flags and celebrate RCB's victory on MG Road.
DH PHOTO/KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The heart of Bengaluru erupted in deafening whistles and chants of "RCB! RCB!" on Sunday night as thousands of fans packed bars and cafés to watch Royal Challengers Bengaluru chase IPL glory for the second year in a row.

Although the match was being played over 1,000 kilometres away in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru's high streets — Church Street, Brigade Road and MG Road — transformed into a high-energy party zone.

From Church Street to Basavanagudi, the entire city seemed to hold its breath.

While police had urged people not to organise large road rallies or burst firecrackers for safety reasons, fans found every possible way to show their support.

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium may have been empty inside, but the streets outside became a hub of celebration and merchandise frenzy.

Street vendors saw a surge in demand as thousands queued up to buy team flags, caps and jerseys. Nowhere was the energy more intense than on Church Street, just a stone's throw from the stadium. The entire stretch came to a standstill as pubs, cafes and restaurants filled shoulder-to-shoulder with fans glued to screens.

"When Virat Kohli walked out and began taking on the GT bowling attack, including a massive over off Kagiso Rabada, the street erupted," said Varun, a long-time RCB fan.

"That Rabada over was pure madness," said Rahul, a fan watching from a packed pub. "When Virat hit those back-to-back boundaries, the entire building shook. People were screaming."

But just when victory seemed within reach, with only 11 runs needed off 24 balls, Kohli's flick towards mid-off was taken by a diving GT skipper Shubman Gill.

Fans froze in disbelief, but relief soon followed when Kohli immediately opted for a review. The third umpire overturned the decision in a tense moment that reignited celebrations.

When Kohli's six in the 18th over finally sealed the win, fans erupted in joy, chanting in unison: "RCB! RCB!" and "Ee sala cup namde (This year, the cup is ours)."

Earlier in the day, anticipation for an RCB victory had driven many fans to seek blessings. Temples across the city saw devotees breaking coconuts and offering special prayers for the team's success, hoping rain would not disrupt the match.

With tickets for the final sold out, many local fans turned to the city's commercial spaces. Families and groups of friends booked seats at movie screenings in Orion Mall and Lulu Mall to recreate a stadium-like atmosphere. Restaurants and darshinis across the city were packed, with patrons watching the match closely on television screens.

Traffic closures on roads around Lowry bridge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three major roads in eastern Bengaluru will be closed for several days in early June to allow railway bridge slab replacement work.

The South Western Railway (SWR) has announced the following road closures and traffic diversions at the Lowry underbridge near KR Puram:

Towards KR Puram/ Ramamurthy Nagar/ ITI Colony

The road leading to KR Puram, Ramamurthy Nagar, and ITI Colony via the Lowry underbridge will be closed from June 4 to 9. Commuters are advised to use the KR Puram cable-stayed bridge to reach ITI Colony, Ramamurthy Nagar, and KR Puram.

Towards ITPL/ Whitefield

The road leading to ITPL and Whitefield through the Lowry underbridge will also remain closed from June 4 to 9. Motorists should use the KR Puram cable-stayed bridge as an alternative route.

KR Puram–ITPL Main Road

The road from KR Puram to ITPL via the main road will be closed from 6 pm on June 6 to 6 am on June 8. Drivers are advised to follow the diversion routes provided near the underbridge during this period.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Apartment waste ends up on public land; six vehicles seized

FIR filed for illegal waste dumping in Kadugodi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Apartment complexes in Bengaluru that paid hefty charges for waste processing found their garbage being dumped illegally on public land instead.

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) seized six vehicles and registered an FIR against those involved in illegally transporting and dumping solid waste on vacant land in Kadugodi on Sunday.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh said the action followed complaints from residents about large quantities of waste being dumped near Siddartha Layout in Kadugodi, adjoining Dakshina Pinakini River.

The corporation had authorised Eco Sphere Waste Solutions, a private company, to collect and dispose of bulk waste from commercial establishments and apartment complexes. However, a group allegedly led by one Naushad used fake identity cards in the company's name to collect waste illegally from various locations and dump it at unauthorised sites.

Officials inspect the dumping site in Kadugodi on Sunday.
PHOTO: GBA

Acting on public complaints, officials of the solid waste management division kept the area under surveillance and launched a special enforcement drive.

During the operation on May 29, five vehicles carrying waste were seized while attempting to dump garbage at the site. The drivers fled after noticing the officials. A sixth vehicle was seized at the same location the following day.

Based on a complaint filed by the Assistant General Manager of the SWM division, Kadugodi police registered an FIR. Legal action has been initiated against the vehicle owners, drivers, others involved in the operation and the landowner who allegedly allowed waste to be dumped on the property.

How the scam worked

- Eco Sphere Waste Solutions was authorised to collect and dispose of commercial and residential bulk waste.
- A group led by one Naushad allegedly exploited this by using fake identity cards in the company's name.
- They collected waste from multiple locations without permission and dumped it at unauthorised sites, bypassing legal disposal channels.

Fallen tree removed, but debris still remains after a month

BENGALURU, DHNS: An elderly couple continue to grapple with the aftermath of a tree fall over their house in Nandidurg Extension nearly a month ago, with logs and branches still lying on the road.

The tree fell on the Menacherys' residence on 7th Cross Road in Nandidurg Extension last month, trapping the senior citizens inside for a day. With the fallen tree blocking the front door and the gate, the couple paid Rs 10,000 to clear a passage.

After repeated requests, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) removed the fallen tree deploying a crane. Even as officials from the forest cell sawed off the trunk, they left behind several smaller logs and branches on the road.

Residents said the debris continue to block the footpath and the carriageway.

Menachery, still living in the affected house, said she had been contacting the forest cell almost every day. "Each time I call them, they assure me that the debris will be cleared the next day. But nothing has happened," she said.

When *DH* contacted the forest cell officials, they assured to clear the debris on Monday.

The fallen tree trapped an elderly couple inside their Nandidurg Extension home for a day, forcing them to pay Rs 10,000 for access. But, even after corporation officials removed the trunk, debris is left scattered on the road.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Lecture: 'Sankathana'; Nataraj Huliyar to attend; Kannada PG and Research Centre of Government Arts College; Bapuji Auditorium, Government Arts College; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Theatre Festival: In memory of playwright DK Chowta featuring play 'Mittabail Yamunakka'; Organised by Rangachandira; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sermon: 'Hadibadeya Dharma' by Satyesh Bellur, Vaishnavi D Acharya; Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhakta Mandali Trust; Samskruthika Mandira; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy towards afternoon or evening or night

TEMPERATURES	
Maximum	32.2°C
Minimum	20.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	11 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	54%
Sunset (Jun 1)	6:42 pm
Sunrise (Jun 2)	5:52 am
Moonrise	6:51 pm
Moonset	5:30 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

After backlash, civic body to repair Bannerghatta Road

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid mounting criticism from residents and commuters over the poor condition of Bannerghatta Main Road, civic authorities have decided to repair damaged stretches and potholes between Dairy Circle and Royal Meenakshi Mall at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore.

Officials have clarified that the works will be temporary in nature.

The decision follows weeks of complaints on social media, where commuters shared images and videos of the damaged road surface, with loose stone aggregates exposed, making driving hazardous.

The temporary repair of Bannerghatta Road may take a month to start. DH PHOTO

Several users described the stretch as a "danger zone", particularly for two-wheelers.

The stretch, which connects key residential and commercial areas, witnesses heavy traffic throughout the day.

"We will be floating short-term tenders. The work will be completed in a month," a senior engineer of the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) said.

He added that only temporary repairs are being taken up, not full-scale asphalting, as Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) plans to white-top the entire stretch.

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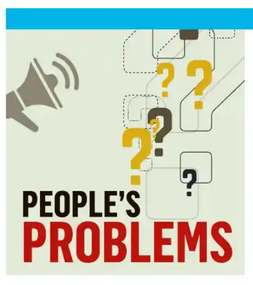

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Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

Mosque Road footpaths used concrete, not tiles.

Deviation from white-topping norms

The white-topping works on Mosque Road in Fraser Town are nearing completion after missing several deadlines. However, residents have alleged deviations from the original footpath development plan.

According to them, the contract included tiling of footpaths, as seen on several other white-topped roads across the city. Instead, the entire footpath stretch has allegedly been finished using brushed concrete.

Residents pointed out that the footpaths previously had colourful tiles, which were removed during the execution of roadside drain (RSD) works, also part of the white-topping project. They questioned why concrete was used across the stretch instead of restoring tiled footpaths that would enhance the road's appearance.

Mohamed Afsar, Fraser Town

Auto drivers fleeing the public

In light of fuel price hikes and poor road conditions, some auto drivers are refusing to use the meter and are demanding excessive fares for both short and long trips. They often refuse to take passengers to their intended destinations, and many autos do not even stop when commuters hail them.

Who will address this growing inconvenience for the public?

Ranganathan, UAS Layout

INMATE WELFARE INITIATIVES

Parappana Agrahara gets India's first prison mental health helpline

BENGALURU, DHNS

Supreme Court judge Justice Vikram Nath and Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru visited Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru on Sunday, inaugurating a series of inmate welfare initiatives, including India's first prison-based mental health helpline.

Justice Nath, Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority, and Justice Bakhru, Patron-in-Chief of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, were accompanied by Karnataka High Court Judge Justice Anu Sivaraman, also the Executive Chairperson of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority.

The visiting judges inspected the Prison Legal Aid Clinic.

Justice Nath inaugurated a computer lab sponsored by RV College of Engineering to facilitate skill training for inmates under the 'Cells to Skills' programme. They also visited the de-addiction centre in the prison hospital section and obtained details about its facilities from medical officers.

Later, they visited the women's barracks and inaugurated Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States), a Nimhans initiative being launched in a prison for the first time in the country. "This will facilitate direct contact with Nimhans to treat the mental health conditions of inmates, making it convenient to receive mental health facilities and treatment quickly," an official statement said.

The judges interacted with women inmates, visited the recently started childcare centre (creche) in the women's section, and interacted with the children of women inmates.

An interaction was later held in the auditorium with undertrial and convict inmates who had received legal aid, along with officers of the District Legal Services Authority.

Senior Mediator of the Supreme Court's Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee Sriram Panchu, National Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Sanjiv Pandey, and Karnataka High Court Judges Justice Suraj Govindaraj and Justice G Basavaraja were present.

Director General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Services) Alok Kumar presided over the programme.

Supreme Court Judge Justice Vikram Nath (C), along with Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court Vibhu Bakhru (L) and DGP Alok Kumar (R) at the Bengaluru Central Prison on Sunday.
PHOTO: KARNATAKA PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Five drown in River Tungabhadra near Mantralaya

RAICHUR, DHNS: Five persons who ventured into River Tungabhadra for a swim, met watery grave near Mantralaya on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Vadla Satish (35) and his son Yuvan Chandra (5) both from Hyderabad; Raghavendra (28) of Mantralaya, Vadla Dhanush (23) of Emmiganur near Kurnool and Sandhya (22) of Uruvakonda in Ananthapur district. A 22-year-old Aparna Adoni survived the tragedy.

All the six had come to their relative's house in Mantralaya for a pooja and ventured into the river for a bath on Saturday noon. Yuvan started to drown and the remaining five rushed to rescue him. While Aparna survived, others drowned in the shallow waters.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel along with expert divers traced the bodies. During the search, body of an unidentified man was also found, police said.

5 women among 6 killed in Bagepalli serial accident

CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS: Six persons including five women labourers were killed in a serial accident on the outskirts of Bagepalli in Chikkaballapur district on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Umadevi, Vijayamma, Lakshmamma, Arunamma, Sarojamma - all labourers and Anjinappa, an auto driver.

The accident occurred when the five women were returning home from work by an auto. An SUV rammed the auto from behind and the auto in turn rear-ended a container truck which was parked in the front. The auto driver and passengers were sandwiched between the SUV and container. Another four women who sustained grievous injuries in the accident were shifted to hospitals in Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru.

NATGRID B'luru gets CISF security

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid) campus in Bengaluru will now be protected by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), officials said on Sunday.

Siddu, Shivakumar to meet Congress top brass in Delhi today

Talks likely on first batch of ministers to be sworn in

BENGALURU, DHNS

Caretaker chief minister Siddaramaiah and his successor-to-be D K Shivakumar are likely to meet the Congress top brass in Delhi on Monday and deliberate on the first batch of ministers to be sworn in alongside Shivakumar on June 3 (Wednesday).

The first batch, which generally includes senior ministers with critical portfolios, is likely to comprise 10-12 ministers. The list is expected to be a mix of seniority and contributions to party, while also balancing caste and regional dynamics.

According to sources, those like G Parameshwara, M B Patil, Priyank Kharge, Krishna Byre Gowda, Eshwar Khandre, Ramalinga Reddy, Santosh Lad and Yathindra Siddaramaiah are likely to be part of the first batch. Except for Yathindra (who was not a minister in the outgoing ministry), all other above-mentioned leaders held important portfolios in the Siddaramaiah 2.0 Cabinet.

Siddaramaiah

D K Shivakumar

Incidentally, the eight ministers who were sworn in to the Cabinet alongside Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar after the Congress assumed power in May 2023 were: G Parameshwara, K H Muniyappa, Priyank Kharge (Dalits), B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan (Muslim), K J George (Christian), Satish Jarkiholi (Scheduled Tribe), M B Patil (Lingayat) and Ramalinga Reddy (Reddy).

The Congress leaders are also expected to discuss about the candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections to be held on June 18.

The Congress, which has 135 MLAs currently, is expected to win three of the four Rajya Sabha seats and five of the seven MLC seats that go to the polls.

As per the 91st Amendment Act of 2003, the maximum size of the Cabinet in both the union and state governments cannot exceed 15% of the total strength of the concerned House (Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly concerned). Accordingly, Karnataka, with a 224-member Assembly, cannot have a Cabinet with more than 34 members (15%).

The remaining ministerial posts are expected to be filled after the RS and Legislative Council elections conclude.

The eventual Cabinet is likely to include leaders close to both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, while youngsters and high command loyalists may also make the final cut.

Role switch for George: Power minister to peacemaker

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Former minister K J George played a pivotal behind-the-scenes role in ensuring a smooth transition of power from Siddaramaiah to Shivakumar - acting as a trusted bridge between state leadership and Congress high command.

While seamless handover surprised many, George — a 6-time MLA and Siddaramaiah's close confidant — quietly stepped in as crisis manager, calming tensions.

When the high command called Siddaramaiah to Delhi for discussions on May 26, he was accompanied by George. After daylong meeting, Rahul Gandhi asked Siddaramaiah to step down.

K J George

A shocked Siddaramaiah headed straight to George's residence in Delhi's upscale Sunder Nagar area. It was George who pacified him and eased his unhappiness over the decision. The party asked Shivakumar to stay in Delhi and instructed his supporters not to celebrate publicly, giving the CM time to come to terms with the change.

As news of Siddaramaiah's decision to quit spread, many loyalist ministers and MLAs pressured him to start a signature campaign or field G Parameshwara as rebel candidate in the Congress Legislature Party meeting.

Sensing trouble, the top brass entrusted George with the delicate task of persuading the CM to resign gracefully and ensuring Shivakumar's election as CLP leader.

George successfully managed it all, with Siddaramaiah submitting his resignation on May 28. The next day, George flew Siddaramaiah and his son Yathindra to Delhi in his private aircraft for meetings with top leaders, including Rahul and Mallikarjun Kharge.

He was the only other person present at CM's meeting with Rahul, where the top leader praised the Kuruba strongman for obeying party directive.

George also arranged an extended breakfast meeting between Siddaramaiah and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal.

Party insiders say George is effectively filling the vacuum created by the death of veteran leader Oscar Fernandes, who was Sonia Gandhi's go-to man for resolving political crisis, if any in state.

A businessman with interests in coffee plantations, George is a member of the AICC poll committee. He has developed close ties with Gandhi family, has a residence in Delhi and has consistently accompanied Siddaramaiah during visits to the capital.

His efforts helped ensure a dignified exit for Siddaramaiah and a smooth entry for Shivakumar, preserving unity in the state Congress.

Inclusive devpt key to realise Viksit Bharat: VP

'Make in India', 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' giving new direction for India's growth: Guv

NAINA J A
MANGALURU, DHNS

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said that inclusive development that caters to the needs of all is needed to realise the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Speaking after inaugurating Siri Matrushree Industrial Park at Renkedaguthu in Belthangady on Sunday, he said, "The vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 as dreamt by Prime Minister must become a national movement. It should not remain a dream but become a reality through the contribution of every citizen.

"No force can stop India from becoming a developed nation by 2047 if we work together towards that goal. Siri products Dharmasthala is following the true spirit of Prime Minister Modi's 'vocal for local' campaign, which seeks to nurture entrepreneurship and self-reliance. Through Atmanirbhar Bharat, we must produce more within the country to reduce dependence on imports and generate greater employment opportunities," he added.

He said, "Dharmasthala is a unique place where spirituality and service coexist. It is a sacred centre where faith finds expression through education, healthcare, women's empowerment and rural development."

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan was presented with Siri products during the inauguration of Matrushree Industrial Park, at Dharmasthala on Sunday. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

For centuries, Dharmasthala has stood as a symbol of harmony and service to the poor. At a time when the world is discussing coexistence and harmony, Dharmasthala has been practising these values for centuries, he added.

Stating that Siri is not merely a commercial enterprise, he said it is a movement that has transformed rural women into creators and entrepreneurs. The word 'SIRI' signifies prosperity, abundance. Today, Siri directly supports the livelihoods of around 3,000 individuals and indirectly benefits nearly 10,000 people, most of whom belong to economically weaker sections.

The efforts to connect rural products with wider markets through digital platforms and modern supply chains are highly commendable. He hoped that the Siri model inspires similar initiatives across the country and helps create more industries within rural ecosystems, enabling India to showcase such success stories before the world.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot said programmes such as Make in India, Startup India and Atmanirbhar Bharat have provided a new direction for India's growth and self-reliance.

Emphasising the need for sustainable growth, the Governor said green industrialisation represents the future of India. He called for greater focus on pollution-free and eco-friendly industrial practices.

"Young people should be encouraged to become job creators rather than job seekers," he added.

Siri product catalogue was released by Vice President on the occasion. Dharmadhikari D Veerendra Heggade, DK MP Capt Brijesh Chowta and others were present.

Earlier, in the day, Vice President visited Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple and had the darshan of the deity.

A file photo of former deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar interacting with citizens as part of his 'Bengaluru Nadige' initiative.

From free hand to full control: What DKS' elevation means for B'luru?

'With him at helm, major projects will get a push'

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

As Bengaluru Development Minister, D K Shivakumar enjoyed a considerable say in shaping the city's development agenda over the last three years.

Even when the government allocations were limited, he came up with out-of-the-box ideas, including raising massive loans to fund infrastructure projects, implementing policies that required tweaking the laws and taking politically and administratively difficult decisions that his predecessors had hesitated to pursue.

While some initiatives helped in reviving long-stalled projects and won support from industry and sections of the public, others drew sharp criticism from citizens, urban planners and environmental groups.

Now, as Shivakumar prepares to assume office as chief minister, many believe that the projects he championed will gain further momentum, giving him even greater influence over Bengaluru's future.

Among the projects closely associated with Shivakumar include: proposed North-South and East-West tunnel road projects, 126 km of elevated corridors, a short but expensive tunnel at Hebbal Junction, revival of the long-pending Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) and the Greater Bengaluru Integrated township project in Bidadi, new roads in the buffer zones of stormwater drains, etc.

Shivakumar is also vocal about bringing the second airport to South Bengaluru.

During his tenure, laws were amended to increase the building deviation limit from 5% to 15%, enact the premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) policy, make Transferable Development Rights (TDR) attractive and bring back advertisement hoardings among others. His tenure also saw major institutional reform with the restructuring of the BBMP into five corporations.

Yet, even as mega projects dominated the agenda, the city's everyday civic problems remained unresolved. Flooding continues to affect the same neighbourhoods, sewage flows non-stop in all stormwater drains, most footpaths beyond the central business district (CBD) areas are unwalkable and Namma Metro works are behind deadlines.

Former corporator Abdul Wajid said Bengaluru faces a choice between pursuing large-scale road projects and finding ways to decongest the city. "Major infra projects face resistance initially, but they are needed. Had the steel flyover project been implemented, traffic problems around Mehkri Circle may have been addressed," he said.

Before picking projects, independent mobility expert Satya Arikutharam suggested that Shivakumar place all mobility proposals to a professional scrutiny through Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority, which he would chair. "That could bring a greater sense of responsibility and accountability to decision-making," he said.

A retired IAS officer said many of the projects backed by Shivakumar were likely to move faster once he becomes chief minister. "Even under Siddaramaiah, he did not face major obstacles in securing approvals. As CM, decision-making could become much faster. The only significant checks may come from the courts," he felt.

Notably, Shivakumar — in his tenure as Bengaluru Development minister — faced major pushback only from the finance department, especially when urban development department sent proposals such as a 2.2-km tunnel costing Rs 1,200 crore and integrated solid waste management contract costing Rs 39,437 crore for approval. The opposition parties, barring a few leaders, were mostly silent.

DH Classifieds

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, JAYASHREE M. D/o Andani, residing at No.31, Siddhartha Nagara, 1st Cross, Malavalli Town, Mandya, Karnataka-571430, have changed my Name from JAYASHREE to JAYASHREE M vide affidavit dated 25.05.2026 before Notary D. Sarala Kumari, Bangalore.

I, B NAGAMMA, DOB 01/06/2002, R/o Emmiganur, 583113 have changed name to U NANDINI vide affidavit dt 29-05-2026 before Notary, Gangavathi. B NAGAMMA (Old) U NANDINI (New)

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'Congress Bhavan groundbreaking ceremony after swearing-in'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister-elect D K Shivakumar on Sunday said that the ground-breaking ceremony for the Congress Bhavan near Race Course Road will be held after his swearing-in ceremony on June 3.

After visiting the office, Shivakumar told reporters that he would invite Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge to participate in the event.

"All the block and district Congress presidents, incumbent and former MLAs, presidents of various units of the party, chairpersons of various boards and corporations will be invited. The public will not be allowed, and workers should excuse us. Since there are space constraints, only invitees will be allowed," said Shivakumar.

Shivakumar noted that arrangements would be made for Congress leaders and office-bearers to watch the swearing-in ceremony on LED screens virtually. "We must at least make these arrangements for the leaders who have fought and worked for us," he added.

Explaining the rationale behind having the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan instead of Vidhana Soudha, he said: "The citizens of Bengaluru should not be inconvenienced. To avoid a traffic pile-up, the swearing-in ceremony is being held at the Lok Bhavan rather than on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha. This is a simple programme, and hence large gatherings will not be allowed. Our workers should excuse us."

BIRTHPLACE BETTERMENT

The Kanakapura 'rock': How land of granite shaped 'Bande'

ASHWIN B M
KANAKAPURA, DHNS

At first, political rivals used the nickname 'Bande' (Rock) to mock D K Shivakumar. They accused him of destroying the hills of Kanakapura through his granite mining business for personal profit.

Even though people still argue about his past mining business, Locals say Shivakumar has spent a large amount of his own money to improve Kanakapura.

In the local villages, old and dangerous dirt tracks have been replaced with wide, smooth asphalt roads.

He also donated his own land to build large schools named after his parents.

At the same time, his deep faith has led to big temple projects. He spent over Rs 3 crore to rebuild an ancient, 1,500-year-old Shiva temple. Villagers say he is highly religious and sometimes visits the temple at 4 am just to pray.

Right now, workers are building a large retaining wall near the river to protect the temple from flooding. There are also plans to build a pedestrian hanging bridge and water dams to help local farmers.

Sri Kenkeramma Temple, said to be the home deity of CM-designate DK Shivakumar in Kanakapura. Shivakumar renovated the temple. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN B M

His supporter Dunturu Vishwanath said: "In our village language, we say he is a man who takes a job all the way to the shore (*dada muttisuvavaregu*). He is an expert at finishing whatever work he picks up," Vishwanath said.

Looking back at Shivakumar's early days, Vishwanath recalled that when he first entered politics, he did not have the massive wealth he has today.

"When he started, land in this area was not worth much. But over the years, the price of land around Bengaluru and Ramanagara shot up. Every few years, the value of his properties doubled and tripled, turning into a massive empire. He did not come from extreme poverty. His family was well-to-do but he did not have the huge amounts of money needed for modern elections back then," he explained.

Proud mom's on the moon

In Kodihalli, Kanakapura, resides 84-year-old Gowramma, the mother of CM-designate Shivakumar. For a family that has now reached the pinnacle of state politics to the mother battling age-related memory loss, he remains the boy with an insatiable craving for her karjikayi and thambittu. While she has chosen to skip the chaos of the swearing-in ceremony, seeing him finally reach the top is the greatest reward.

Gowramma, Shivakumar's mother. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN B M

Back in the village, as news came in via television that Siddaramaiah had agreed to share power and that her son would soon takew oath as CM, Gowramma's reaction was one of quiet, maternal relief.

She told DH, "We are essentially farmers. There is deep happiness. I always wanted my son to reach this height and today, it has happened."

She is eagerly waiting for her son to return home after oath-taking, for her blessings.

ks wife to death with machete, surrenders to police

Kani Madayya

Nagamma

later surrendered to the police.

The 52-year-old suspect Kani Madayya, a cattle trader, has a son and a daughter with his 42-year-old wife Nagamma.

Investigations revealed that the couple frequently quarrelled, with Madayya accusing Nagamma of having affairs with other men. Having separated, Madayya lived next door to his wife with his mother, while she lived with the two children.

Around 7.30 pm on Sunday, when the children were away at work, Madayya picked up a quarrel with Nagamma. When the arguments escalated, he grabbed a machete in the house and hacked her, police said.

He went to the Ramanagara Rural police station and surrendered, saying he murdered his wife. Police took him into custody and executed the arrest.

Investigations revealed that Nagamma had filed a complaint against Madayya at the women's police station. Recently, Madayya assaulted a man suspecting he and Nagamma were together.

Police visited the spot and sent the body for autopsy. The body was handed over to the family after the procedures were completed. Madayya has been booked under BNS Section 103 (murder).

arrested for killing posing of body in park

been discovered in a sack at the BDA park in Nisarga Layout on April 24. Subsequently, the body was identified as that of Prasad's.

Police later registered a murder case. They called Prasad's brother-in-law to the station, who helped identify the body.

Police arrested Kumar from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh on May 20.

During interrogation, he admitted to murdering Prasad with help from two associates, who are absconding. Kumar was brought to the city on transit remand.

Police said that on the night of April 20, the duo had a quarrel at home after consuming alcohol. During the argument, Kumar severely beat Prasad, who sustained injuries to his stomach, chest, head and back.

Aided by the two accomplices, Kumar packed the body in a sack and took it on a scooter to dump it in the BDA park in Nisarga Layout.

He is remanded to judicial custody, while police are making efforts to nab the absconding suspects.

dar ends life in Hassan lodge

He had served in Hassan three years ago, and was currently working as deputy tahsildar at Saligrama village in Mysuru district.

According to the police, Thimmaiah had taken a room for rent in the lodge on Saturday at 11.30 am. As he did not open the lodge room till evening, the employees of the lodge grew suspicious. They entered the room at around 8.30 pm, and found him hanging.

Thimmaiah has left a purported death note before taking the extreme step. The Hassan Extension police visited the spot. A case has been registered. Based on the information in the death note, the police have initiated a probe.

Applications invited for bravery awards

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited applications for the National Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar 2026.

Children from the Bengaluru Urban district who have demonstrated exceptional courage in saving others, or who have achieved excellence in sports, social service, technology, environmental conservation, art, culture or innovation, can apply online at https://awards.gov.in.

The award is open to children aged 5 to 18 years. The last date for submission is July 31.

For more information, applicants can contact their respective District Child Protection Units:

Bengaluru Central: 080-29919017; dcpo.bc@gmail.com.

Bengaluru East (KR Puram): 080-29904132; dcpoblreast@gmail.com.

Bengaluru North (Yelahanka): 080-28461452; dcpoyalahanka@gmail.com.

Bengaluru South (Kengeri): 080-23442233; southdcpo@gmail.com.

Bengaluru West (Anekal): 080-22076833; anekaldcpo@gmail.com.

This information is provided according to an official release.

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase a property, which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property presently owned by Mrs. Sandhya Khandelwal, aged about 72 years, wife of Sri Jagdish Prasad Kahndelwal, residing a t No.205, 5th Cross, 10th 'D' Main Road, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore - 560011, who have represented that they have a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property. Any person/persons who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days hereof, failing which it will presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the converted land measuring an extent of about 17 Guntas comprised in Sy.No.26/1 and 12 Guntas comprised in Sy.No.33/4, both situated at Kalena Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk (converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(S).SR.13/2007-08, dated:25/0/2014 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), presently bearing EPID No.5734093373 assigned by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and bounded on the:

East by : Re. Sy. Nos. 24 and 26, West by : Re. Sy. Nos. 33/3 and 33/4, North by : Road, South by : Remaining portion o f Sy.Nos. 26.

Arvind Raghavan, Advocate
No. 48, "ISHITA", 2nd Main Road, Vyalikavar, Bangalore-560003. Ph. No: 9845004419
E-Mail: arvind_ncsr@yahoo.com

GM cotton seeds: Agri dept alerts 13 districts

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Agriculture department has put 13 districts, most of them in north Karnataka, on alert over the circulation of unauthorised genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds, after the Centre requested the state government to take action against those violating the rules.

GM cotton seeds, especially the ones designed to resist cotton bollworms through a gene from Bacillus thuringiensis (BT) bacteria, have a history of highs and lows in India.

The lows have been characterised by agrarian crisis and even tragic deaths of farmers, especially in Maharashtra and parts of north Karnataka.

As per the law, only those GM seeds approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for commercial release can be sold in the country.

However, the Centre has sought action following information regarding illegal seeds "through various sources, including media reports and inputs from certain stakeholders".

In a letter dated May 27, Agriculture Department Director G T Putra cited a communication by the Centre to direct all joint directors to conduct surprise inspections and check all the GM seed producing areas, ginning/processing units, storage areas and markets.

"Confirm that all the cotton seed packets contain mandatory labelling and clear details of the producer and marketer. Ensure traceability, and spread awareness among the farmers on the importance of purchasing only verified and approved seeds," Putra said, directing officials to take the help of the police where necessary and submit a detailed report on the actions taken.

The action comes in the wake of a letter by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare written in April.

"Such (unauthorised) seeds are reportedly being distributed through informal channels, in some cases without proper labelling or traceable details of the producer and marketer," Joint Secretary Ajeet Kumar Sahu said.

The Centre has asked the states to monitor and regulate the production, processing, storage, distribution and sale of cotton seeds in their jurisdiction. "States may consider undertaking targeted and risk-based inspections of seed production areas," it said.

Sources said that complaints have been received over the last few years that unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds were being sold in the market.

Farmers have been trying to look for herbicide tolerant seeds as solution over labour shortage in the agriculture sector.

AI to sewage t plant down consu by 2

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) implemented an AI tool at the Nagasandra Sewage Treatment Plant (Phase II), cutting power consumption by 25% and saving nearly Rs 50 lakh annually.

"We recently concluded the pilot study, which showed that power consumption can be cut by 25% using the tool. Similar pilot studies are ongoing across three more STPs, we will get the results soon," a senior BWSSB official said.

Given the tool's success, the BWSSB will soon roll out the programme and use the AI tool across all 34 STPs, BWSSB Chairman Dr Ramprasat Manohar V told *DH*.

"We are exploring ways to cut power consumption at our STPs and pumping stations since close to 70% of our revenue is spent on power consumption charges. We will soon roll out this AI tool across all other STPs," he added.

The STPs use blowers that induce oxygen into sewage to help treat the water by

Foster care progra

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Urban District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) have invited applications from eligible prospective foster parents for the Foster Care Programme for 2026–27.

For details, contact the respective DCPUs: Bengaluru Central at 080-29919017 or dcpo.bc@gmail.com; Benga-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that my clients namely, **Sri. Harish Babu. Y, Sri. K.C. Jayaprakash, and or their nominees**, are intending to purchase all that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing **Survey No.86, (Old Sy No: 64)** measuring 1 Acre 35.12 Guntas excluding 4.04 guntas of B Kharab Land, situated at Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, from: Sri. Manjunath B.C, B.C. Satish, Sri. Shankar.B.D, Sri. Munivenkatappa, Sri. Anjinappa, Sri. Muniyellappa, and Sri. Narayanaswamy along with their family members who claim to be the joint and absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property.

Therefore, any person/s, banks, financial institutions or anybody having any right, title, interest, share, claim, lien, charge, mortgage, tenancy, easement, inheritance, acquisition proceedings, attachment, litigation or objection of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to notify the same in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documentary proof within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no person has any claim whatsoever over the Schedule Property and the proposed transaction shall be proceeded with without any further reference.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing **Survey No.86 (Old Sy No: 64) measuring 1 Acre 35.12 Guntas, excluding 4.04 guntas of kharab land** situated at Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on:

East by : Land bearing Sy. No.64
West by : Road
North by : Land bearing Sy. No.82
South by : Land bearing Sy. No.64

Manjunath J S
ANSHI LEGAL
Advocates & Solicitors,
No. #216, Chethan Illam, 7th Cross, 7th Main, Defence Layout, Sahakaranagara, Bangalore– 560 092.
Ph:9980913373/9886385075
Place : Bengaluru Date : 31.05.2026

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APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA

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- Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement.

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- The post carries a pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- and other usual allowances.
- The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

Procedure for appointment

- Appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a committee constituted under the provisions of Act of the University.
- The advertisement is available on the websites ***https://www.education.gov.in*** and ***https://www.cuk.ac.in***
- Candidates are required to **"APPLY ONLINE ONLY"** on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:

https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in/index.php/

- The above link will be active from 01.06.2026, 10:00 Hours to 30.06.2026, 17:00 Hours.

CBC 21201/11/0003/2627

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LEVEL	NAME OF THE PROGRAMME	DEGREE	DURATION	
			YEARS	SEMESTER
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		Mulitiple Entry and Exit Option		
	Bachelor of Pysical Education and Sports	BPES	3	6
Postgraduate	Master of Science (Sports Coaching) (Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Shooting, Swimming, Weightlifting)	M.Sc (Sports Coaching	2	4
	Master of Science (Sports Psychology)	M.Sc (Sports, Phychology)	2	4
	Mster of Physical Educationa and Sports	MPES	2	4
	Master of Science in Applied Spors Nutrision	M.Sc (Applied Sports Nutrition)*	2	4
		Exit Option : PG Diploma in Sports Nutrition	1	2

"Framed in accordance with the National Education Policy, 2020.

Admission to the programmes will be based on the National Sports University Entrance Examination (NSUEE), as well as programme-specific assessments, including the Physical Fitness Test, Game Proficiency, Viva Voce, and Sports Achievement of the candidates. The Entrance Examination, Physical Fitness Test, etc., will be conducted offline at the admission test centres.

For more details on admission, such as eligibility criteria, prospectus, how to apply, fee, payment details, examination centre, admission schedule etc. please visit the University's website: www.nsu.ac.in

Those candidates whose examination results are awaited can also apply. However, admission will be subject to meeting the eligibility criteria on the date of admission.

Registration and filling of online application form is open from 25th May 2026 to 25th June 2026 through www.nsu.ac.in

Candidates are required to regularly check the University website for the latest updated information, further announcements, and changes.

CBC 47116/11/0001/2627 **Sd/- Registrar**

Delivery Mode: Paper Publication

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No.(s) 30025-30028 OF 2024
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

HARISH KUMAR (DEAD) BY LRS AND OTHERS ...Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
THE STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS ...Respondent(s)

To,

1. **Sri. DALI MUNIYAPPA,** Aged about 65 years, S/o Muni Obalappa, R/a Ullal Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560110., District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560110. **PID: 143909/2026 FOR R[19] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
2. **SMT. B.V. RATHNAMMA,** Aged about 60 years, D/o Late Venkataramaiah, R/a No.33, 12th E Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023., District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560023. **PID: 143910/2026 FOR R[21] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
3. **SRI. H. CHANDRAKEERTHI,** Aged about 41 years, S/o Late Hanumaiah, R/a Ullal Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560110, District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560110. **PID: 143911/2026 FOR R[24] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
4. **SMT. PARVATHAMMA,** Aged about 71 years, D/o Late Dasappa, Residing At No.36, Ullala Main Road, Opp. Ullal Lake, Bengaluru-560110, District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560110. **PID: 143912/2026 FOR R[34] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
5. **SRI. NARASIMHA MURTHY,** S/o Late Puttaiah, Aged about 55 years Residing at No.36, Ullala Main Road, Opp, Ullal Lake, Bengaluru-560110, District-Bangalore, Karnataka. **PID: 143913/2026 FOR R[35] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024, SLP(C) NO. 30026/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
6. **SRI. NARASIMHA MURTHY,** Son of Late Mallaiah, Aged about 63 years Residing at No.36, Ullala Main Road, Opp. Ullal Lake, Bengaluru-560110, District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560110. **PID: 143914/2026 FOR R[36] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30025/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
7. **V. HARISH KUMAR,** S/o Late M. Venkataramaiah, Major, R/o No.33, 13th Street, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560079., District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560079. **PID: 143915/2026 FOR R[60] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30027/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
8. **R. SHOBHA,** D/o Y. Ramakrishna, W/o M.C. Keshavamurthy, Aged about 37 years, R/a No.11/1, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Valmikinagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore-560026., District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560026. **PID: 143916/2026 FOR R[61] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30027/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
9. **SAROJAMMA,** Aged about 77 years, W/o Late K.N Srinivasa Gupta, Residing at No.9, 100 Feet Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage 4th Block, Bangalore-560083., District- Bangalore, Karnataka - 560083. **PID: 143917/2026 FOR R[66] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
10. **SRI. M.S. MOHAN KUMAR,** About 60 years, S/o Late K.N. Srinivasa Gupta, Residing at No.9, 100 Feet Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage 4th Block, Bangalore-560083., District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560083. **PID: 143918/2026 FOR R[67] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
11. **SRI. K.S. SURENDRA BABU,** Aged about 51 years, S/o Late K.N. Srinivasa Gupta. Residing at No.9, 100 Feet Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage 4th Block, Bangalore-560083., District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560083. **PID: 143919/2026 FOR R[68] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
12. **SRI. K.S. VISHWAKIRAN,** Aged about 46 years, S/o Late K.N. Srinivasa Gupta, Residing at No.9, 100 Feet Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage 4th Block, Bangalore-560083., District-Bangalore, Karnataka. **PID: 143920/2026 FOR R[69] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
13. **SRI. R.V. SUDHIR,** S/o Late Raja Venkataramana Shetty, Residing at No.37/55, Surveyor Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, District- Bangalore, Karnataka - 560004. **PID: 143921/2026 FOR R[72] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
14. **RUDRAMURTHY** S/o H.S. Sadashivaiah, R/o illalu Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk - 560056, Karnataka. **PID: 143922/2026 FOR R[77] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
15. **CHANDRAN** S/o Late Nanjundappa, R/o illalu Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk - 560056, Karnataka. **PID: 143923/2026 FOR R[78] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
16. **NARASAPPA** S/o Basappa, R/o illalu Village Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk - 560056 Karnataka. **PID: 143924/2026 FOR R[79] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
17. **GANGARAJU** S/o Nagaraju, R/o illalu Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk - 560056 Karnataka. **PID: 143925/2026 FOR R[80] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
18. **MUDDUHAHONNAIAH** S/o Jayanna, R/o illalu Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk - 560056 Karnataka. **PID: 143926/2026 FOR R[81] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**
19. **CHANDRAPPA** S/o Late Rajappa, R/o illalu Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk - 560056 Karnataka. **PID: 143927/2026 FOR R[82] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 30028/2024 SLP(C) NO. 30025-30028/2024 (SEC IV-A)**

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for **EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING, DISMISSAL OF APPEAL, INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., APPLICATION FOR SUBSTITUTION, EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, EXEMPTION FROM APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES** above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by **Ms. JAYASREE NARASIMHAN,** Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court **on 09th December, 2024,** when the Court was pleased to inter-alia pass the following order:-

"SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No. 53577/2024
1. **Delay condoned.**
2. **Issue notice.**
3. **Till the next date of hearing, the possession of the disputed property shall not be disturbed.**

xxxxx"

AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was lastly listed before **Hon'ble Court on 21st May, 2026** along with the connected matters, When the following order was passed:-

"1. Mr. Prateek Chadha, learned A.A.G. for the State of Karnataka submits that paper publication, as required by the order dated 09th April, 2026 passed in Special Leave Petition (Civil) Nos. 28248-28249/2024, has been made and that the affidavit of service will be filed by tomorrow, i.e., 22nd May, 2026, subject to permission granted by the Court.
2. **Permission is granted.**
3. **We also grant liberty to the petitioners in SLP(C) Nos.30025-30028/2024 to make similar paper publication as directed by the earlier order dated 09th April, 2026, i.e., in the English daily "Deccan Herald" and in the Kannada daily "Kannada Prabha".**
4. **Let such publication be made within 15 days with an intimation That the State's special leave petitions as well as the other four special leave petitions shall be listed for further consideration in the week commencing 27th July, 2026.**
5. **Pleadings be completed in the meanwhile.**
6. **Interim order, passed earlier, shall continue till the next date of hearing."**

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief along with application for **EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, DISMISSAL OF APPEAL, INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, EXEMPTION FROM APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES** will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why delay in filing SLP delay in filing SLP be not condoned and Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated : **26th May, 2026** **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

Copy to :-
1. Mr. Anirudh Sanganeria (adv.)
2. ***2 Ms. Jayasree Narasimhan (adv.)**
3. Mr. Deepak Prakash (adv.)
4. Mr. Lzafeer Ahmad B.F. (adv.)
5. Ms. Patil Rekha Chandra Gouda (adv.)
6. Ms. Smriti Churiwal (adv.)
7. Mr. Javedur Rahman (adv.)
8. Mr. Vishnu Sharma A.S. (adv.)

*Counsel for Petitioner is required to file Affidavit of paper publication along with proof published in the English daily "Deccan Herald" and in the Kannada daily "Kannada Prabha" newspapers.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Important Notice
LEGAL AID

(1) Legal Services of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society to eligible litigants.
For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel Nos. 011-23116353, 23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office))

MEDIATION

(2) The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is now available in the Supreme Court.
For further information, please contact the Coordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Centre, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel No. 011-23071432)

No.1-1/2026-Skt.II

GOVERNMENT OF IND
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Advertisement No.01/2

Appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Central San

Applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Delhi. The Vice-Chancellor, being the academic as well expected to be:

i. An eminent scholar in the field of Sanskrit and qualifications shall be as specified in the regulations Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956) in this beh

ii. Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the applications of this advertisement. :

iii. A person possessing the highest level of competer institutional commitment.

iv. A distinguished academician, with a minimum of Professor in a University or 10 years' experience in or academic administrative organization with proof academic leadership.

Salary and Service Conditions

- The post carries a pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- and other usual allowance
- The other terms and conditions of the services will the Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020 and Statu University.

Procedure for appointment

- Appointment will be made from a panel of three na Selection Committee in accordance with the procedur Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020.

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- The advertisement is available on the websites **https** and **https://www.sanskrit.nic.in/**
- Candidates are required to **"APPLY ONLINE ONLY"** on SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:

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- The Ministry will not be responsible for the delay i for whatever reasons it maybe.
- The persons who are already in service should channel and submit their applications through th the NOC/ Vigilance Clearance Report given by the their Institutions/ Department alongwith the appli
- Incomplete applications/ applications received afte of applications will not be considered.
- The above link will be active **from 1th June, 2026, 1 2026, 17:00 Hours.**

Deputy Secretary to t

CBC 21212/11/0004/2627

DECCAN HERALD
Monday
June 1, 2026

JD(S) awaits BJP's call on renominating Gowda to RS

Party to back BJP nominee even if ex-PM not chosen

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The JD(S) is awaiting a decision from its alliance partner, BJP, on whether to field former prime minister H D Deve Gowda in the Rajya Sabha elections.

JD(S) leaders, including Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy, have favoured renominating the veteran leader to Upper House of parliament.

The party believes that fielding Deve Gowda would strengthen its outreach to the Vokkaliga community, particularly in the old Mysuru region, and bring experienced representation to the Upper House.

A senior JD(S) leader told *DH* that no formal communication had been received from BJP yet.

The leader said the final decision on Gowda's candidature was likely to rest with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, given his rapport with the former PM.

Modi is expected to weigh in on whether the veteran Vokkaliga leader can prove to be an asset in Rajya Sabha, particularly in countering the Congress, whose Leader in the Upper House is another prominent Kannadiga, Mallikarjun Kharge, said the leader.

The JD(S) has made it clear that even if the BJP did not support Gowda's candidature, it will fully back a BJP candidate, if fielded, as a responsible coalition partner, said the leader.

The leader said the current alliance with BJP was formed primarily with the 2028 Assembly elections in view and the party was not strongly focused on Rajya Sabha or Legislative Council seats.

Within the BJP, opinion on fielding Gowda appears divided. The state unit has recommended names including former chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda and senior leader Nirmal Kumar Surana, but has left the final decision to the central leadership.

Kumaraswamy has been directly engaging with BJP central leaders, bypassing the state unit. He recently met BJP national president Nitin Nabin twice to discuss political developments in the state.

One BJP MP questioned the seniority argument, saying, "If Gowda is being considered for renomination on grounds of seniority, then why not our senior-most leader Murli Manohar Joshi?"

With the last date for filing nominations being June 8, a decision from the BJP high command is expected in the coming days.

Gowda, whose current Rajya Sabha term is nearing completion, has been active in parliament, criticising the Opposition — particularly Congress — and defending the policies of the Modi government.

Heavy rains pound parts of old Mysuru region

MYSURU, DHNS: Several parts of old Mysuru region received thundershowers, accompanied by gusty winds, on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Overnight rains, coupled with gusty winds, caused widespread damage to horticultural crops in Varuna hobli of Mysuru taluk. Scores of coconut and arecanut trees and banana plantations at Pillahalli were uprooted in rain and gusty winds that swept across Pillahalli and surrounding villages late Saturday night.

The farmlands adjacent to Giribettakere lake suffered maximum damage. Incidents of tree falls and uprooting of electricity poles and transformers affected the vehicular movement.

The locals expressed their anguish against the officials of revenue, Cesc and horticultural departments for not conducting a crop loss survey and restoring power lines.

Alur taluk in Hassan district received the pre-monsoon showers after a prolonged dry spell. The showers on Sunday afternoon brought some relief from the scorching heat. Traffic on Alur-Bikkodu road was affected after a massive tree came crashing on the road. Power lines were snapped at several places as the power supply was hit in nearly 25 villages.

Strong winds bring down a tree and electricity pole near Pillahalli in Varuna hobli of Mysuru taluk.

Cesc junior engineer Kumar has assured the villagers of restoring power supply by Monday morning.

Several parts of Kodagu, including Siddapur, Karadigodu and Guhya, experienced heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds on Sunday. Tree falls have disrupted power supply at Guhya and surrounding areas.

Kora in Tumakuru district recorded a maximum rain of 62 mm in the state in the last 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Sunday. Tumakuru city and many parts of the district received heavy overnight rain. An anganwadi building at Kuppuru suffered damage after a tree came crashing down on it.

CBSE accepts vulnerabilities...

CBSE, From Page 1

Sarthak has exposed the easing of norms in the request for proposal to suit a company called Coempt EduTek.

The company is a renamed entity of Globarena, which was caught mismanaging marksheets in Telangana in 2019, leading to 23 student suicides.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the CBSE's May 2025 tender required answer sheets to be scanned with automatic robotic scanners, spines preserved, at a minimum of 300 DPI, but the re-issued tender in August 2025 removed these conditions. "'Scanners' became generic. Resolution dropped to 200 DPI. Now we know what that meant in practice. It has been exposed that COEMPT scanned the answer sheets using mobile phones. The blurred copies, the missing pages, the unscanned books - they are not "errors." They are the predictable outcome of a contract written to fit a vendor. This is fraud. And every child whose marks were wrongly evaluated is a victim of it," Gandhi said.

NSUI activists raise slogans during a protest, alleging irregularities in the Central Board of Secondary Education's On-Screen Marking evaluation system in Delhi. PTI FILE PHOTO

Kin, neighbours recall early yrs...

From Page 1

Once, a young Shivakumar started to sink, and his cousin had to pull him out by his hair. He was so scared that he never tried to swim again.

Older villagers say that his grandfather was a very powerful local leader. One old neighbour remembers: "When Shivakumar's grandfather rode his horse through the village, people were afraid. They would lock their doors and hide. He was a very fierce man. Shivakumar got this fearless and dominant nature from both sides of his family."

The granite business thrived in the region in mid-1980s. After Kanakapura became famous for granite stone, big companies moved in and Shivakumar joined the business.

Shviakumar's cousin, M Vikram, a retired college principal, recalled childhood memories, painting an intimate portrait of a joint family that grew up together in a bustling household in Bengaluru's Rajajinagar 5th Block. Looking to the future, Vikram believes his cousin is no longer driven by personal ambition or wealth, but by a desire to leave an indelible mark on Karnataka.

"During the 1960s, my father bought a site in Rajajinagar 5th Block and built a home. That house soon became the sanctuary for the extended family's children, brought in from the villages for quality education. It housed me, Dr Pushparaj, MLC S Ravi, and a young DKS," Vikram told *DH*.

Shivakumar's time at his first school in the city — the National School — was cut short. "He was a bit of a rebel, full of pundata (mischief), so they gave him a TC (Transfer Certificate) and sent him out," Vikram said.

He then moved to the Carmel School near Bhashyam Circle, later completing his class 10 at Vidyavardhaka Sangha in Rajajinagar 1st Block and his Pre-University (PUC) at HKES in Sadashivanagar.

"During his school days, he was highly athletic. Cross-country races, javelin throw—he was an excellent athlete, no doubt about it," another relative notes. "He was a very smart guy and had a massive craze for pure silk shirts. If you look at any of his childhood photos, he'd be wearing them in vibrant greens and blues."

The aggressive, short-tempered DKS underwent a transformation over the decades. According to his relatives, he was once fiercely arrogant and rash. The shift toward spirituality began around 1992-1993, following his marriage and a visit to Kukke Subramanya for a Sarpa Samskara ritual, where an encounter with a seer changed his outlook.

"Politicians often look for spiritual counters when they believe rivals are using occult methods (vama marga) against them. Gradually, his faith grew. He began funding temple restorations.

He says 'even if effort fails, prayer never fails'," another relative said. "Today, he is a changed man. He used to fight with people; now, he looks at voters with same devotion he reserves for God".

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior at one or two places over Coastal and North Interior Karnataka.
Forecast June 1: Partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy sky towards afternoon/evening. Heavy rain/thundershowers likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	32.28	22.2	0.0
Bidar	40.6	26.8	0.0
Vijayapura	38.5	25.5	0.0
Dharwad	34.0	22.4	0.0
Haveri	33.4	23.0	0.0
Kalaburagi	40.0	27.0	0.0
Raichur	38.0	26.4	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.4	26.0	0.0
Karwar	35.6	28.2	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.6	24.5	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	--	--	--
Bengaluru	31.8	20.5	11.3
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	33.4	19.9	35.4
Davangere	34.0	21.3	2.2
Hassan	--	--	--
Mysuru	32.0	22.0	14.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	33.2	21.2	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	35.0	26.0	NIL
Kolkata	35.0	28.0	NIL
Mumbai	34.0	29.0	NA
Chennai	35.0	29.0	NA
Pune	35.0	24.0	NA
Hyderabad	36.0	26.0	NA
Th'puram	32.0	27.0	NIL

Trekking allowed in Kudremukh from today

KARKALA (UDUPI DISTRICT), DHNS: The Forest Department has granted permission for trekking to the hills of Kudremukh, Gangadikal, Netravati Peak, and Kurinjal Betta from June 1.

According to Shivaram Babu, DCF of the Kudremukh Wildlife Division, it is mandatory to make online bookings through the Forest Department's "Aranya Vihaara" website, and trekking arrangements will be strictly in accordance with the government's new Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs).

B'luru is 2nd expensive housing market

Housing Market, From Page 1

Industry executives say Bengaluru's strong employment base, infrastructure development and robust end-user demand continue to support residential price growth across micro-markets.

"The city's price growth is being driven by end-user demand, sustained employment creation and Bengaluru's continued evolution as a GCC, tech and startup hub. While price growth trends remain micro-market specific, we have seen the average price realisation across our south and west portfolio grow by 21% Y-o-Y to Rs 10,213 in FY26, an indicator of the broader market trend," said Mallanna Sasalu, CEO-South, Puravankara Limited.

According to him, east Bengaluru continues to benefit from its proximity to key IT corridors, while north Bengaluru's growth is being driven by the expansion of the Kempegowda International Airport ecosystem, improved connectivity and the emergence of new commercial hubs.

Several micro-markets in south Bengaluru are also witnessing strong demand, supported by metro connectivity and established social infrastructure.

According to Murali Malayappan, Chairman and Managing Director, Shriram Properties Limited, the rise in residential prices results from a combination of factors, including higher land costs, strong housing demand and ongoing infrastructure-led development.

"Over the last 5 years, land prices across most micro-markets have appreciated between 50% and 100%, far outpacing construction cost inflation. Besides this, Bengaluru's dynamic IT sector, commercial growth, and changing aspirations of buyers have contributed to increased demand," he said.

Robust demand to continue

Developers expect demand momentum to remain healthy through the rest of the year, supported by continued buyer confidence across both premium and mid-income housing segments.

"We expect the market to remain robust for developers who consistently deliver quality inventory, as the balance between premium absorption and mid-income affordability continues to define the sector. This balance will shape demand patterns, ensuring that well-positioned projects catering to both aspirational buyers and value-conscious families remain resilient and attractive," said Priyanka Raju, Director, Kalyani Developers.

The outlook for Bengaluru's residential market remains positive for the remainder of 2026, driven by strong demand fundamentals and infrastructure-led growth, according to Anil R G, Managing Director, Concorde.

"While price appreciation may become more moderate compared to the last few quarters, overall sentiment is expected to remain healthy," he added.

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improving the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). In a conventional setup, the blowers run constantly throughout the day because they are unaware of the oxygen demand.

"The oxygen levels vary and there are times when we don't need the blowers. Earlier, the blowers had to be switched on and off manually but now, we have an AI tool and a mechanism which will determine the oxygen requirement and switch on the blowers only when required. This way, we can optimise power consumption," Manohar explained.

While the AI tool's performance may vary for different STPs, BWSSB officials are confident it will provide an average power reduction of 20%-25% across the STPs. Once installed across all STPs, close to Rs 20 crore in annual savings can be achieved, according to their estimates.

The BWSSB spends close to Rs 90 crore on electricity charges monthly. Earlier, the BWSSB also installed an AI-based smart pump monitoring system at its 78 pumping stations, which helped reduce power costs by close to Rs 40 crore annually.

amme

luru East (KR Puram) at 080-29904132 or dcpoblreast@gmail.com; Bengaluru North (Yelahanka) at 080-28461452 or dcpoyalahanka@gmail.com; Bengaluru South (Kengeri) at 080-23442233 or southdcpo@gmail.com; and Bengaluru West (Anekal) at 080-22076833 or anekaldcpo@gmail.com, according to a release.

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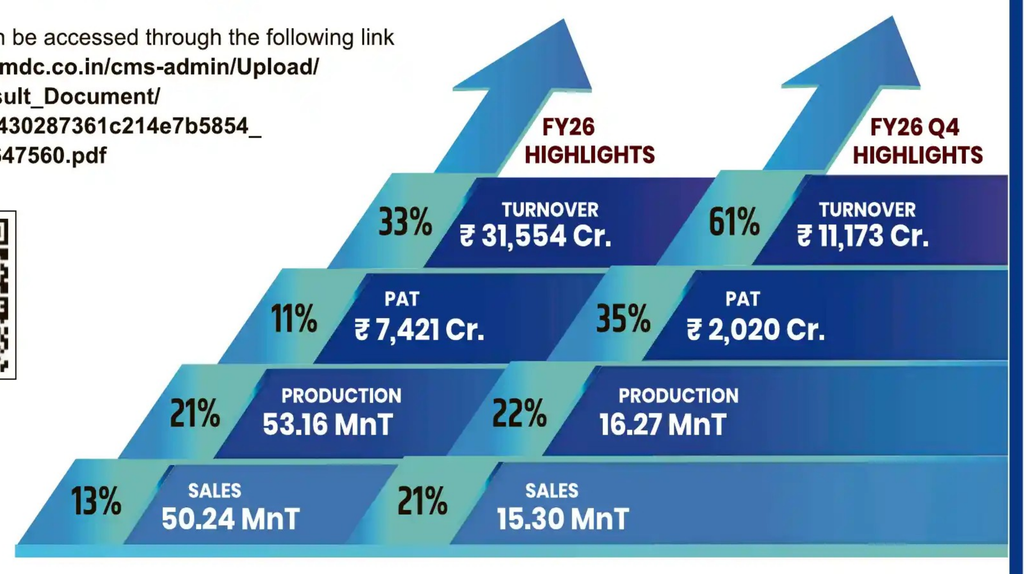

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(Amitava Mukherjee)
Chairman-Cum-Managing Director
DIN: 08265207
Date: 29 May, 2026
Place: Delhi

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY KALABURAGI
Office of Registrar (Evaluation)
Jnana Ganga, KALABURAGI-585 106, Karnataka, India,
Phone No.08472-263203,Fax:08472-263207, E-mail:regegug@rediffmail.com
No.GUK/EXAM-STORE/166C/ap/2025-26/308 Date: 28.05.2026
SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT IInd CALL
Name of the work : Tender for printing & Supply of Barcode Answer booklets, Availability of Tender Documents : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, Estimate amount : **95,00,000/-** EMD submission in online : **1,45,000/-** Last date and time for submission of Tender : **08.06.2026** up to 11.30 am, Date and time of opening of Technical bid : 10.06.2026 11.30 pm, Date and time of opening of financeal bid : 12.06.2026 11.30 pm or after finalizing technical bids, Place of supply : Examination Store Gulbarga University Kalburagi
Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)
DIPR/Kalaburagi/173/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27 Gulbarga University, Kalburagi

Cong preparing to set house in order across states, strengthen I.N.D.I.A

Its immediate task is to finalise candidates for upcoming RS polls

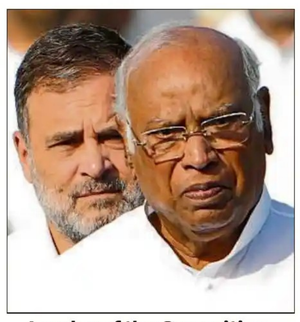
SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After settling the vexatious leadership tussle in Karnataka, the Congress high command is readying itself for the mammoth task of organisational changes in a few states and strengthening the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc following the DMK's exit.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has already approached the Congress for a meeting of bloc members as early as June 6 in the face of the dissent and public resistance that the former has been witnessing in its home state, West Bengal.

On Saturday, TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was assaulted when he was visiting the family of a deceased party worker.

While Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was quick to call both Abhishek and his aunt, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, a final call on the meeting is pending as the leadership is busy ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections and with discussions on organisational changes in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and some other states.



Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. PTI

ROAD AHEAD

- Organisational reshuffle planned in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other states.
- Trinamool seeks an early Opposition alliance meeting; Congress weighing the proposal
- Rahul Gandhi to lead Congress' offensive against the Centre on education issues

The immediate task in hand for the Congress is to finalise candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls, whose deadline for filing nominations is June 8. Congress managers are in intense discussions with allies in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand for seats.

Amid intense lobbying, the high command has to pacify the lost-out aspirants and ensure that there is no cross-voting. Besides, it has to decide on the state leadership in Kerala and Karnataka, where the existing leadership has moved to government posts.

The changes made in Goa — with Girish Chodankar, who is the Congress in-charge in Tamil Nadu, being brought back as state chief — have not gone down well with a section. The move is being read as a signal for a central-level reshuffle.

In Punjab & UP

Another headache will be the Punjab unit, where leaders like Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Partap Singh Bajwa, Charanjit Singh Channi, and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa are said to be working at cross-purpose, and the Assembly polls are less than nine months away.

A recent meeting saw sparks flying with Punjab leaders mincing no words in attacking each other in the presence of Rahul and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

Uttar Pradesh is another focus area for the Congress where it will be in a hard bargain with the Samajwadi Party over seat-sharing for the Assembly polls next year. It will be holding a meeting of Extremely Backward Classes in Lucknow in mid-June.

The party is also planning an aggressive campaign against the Centre on the education front with Rahul leading from the front on NEET and CBSE issues.

Suvendu to expand West Bengal Cabinet today

KOLKATA, DHNS: Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday announced an expansion of his council of ministers on Monday, about three weeks after the new BJP came to power in West Bengal after trouncing the Trinamool Congress in the recent Assembly elections.

Suvendu Adhikari

West Bengal Governor R N Ravi is expected to administer the oath of office to 35 new ministers at Lok Bhavan on Monday.

"A full-fledged Council of Ministers of the nationalist government elected by the people of West Bengal will come into existence tomorrow," Adhikari posted on X.

Adhikari had taken the oath as the CM on May 9. Five other newly elected BJP legislators were also sworn in as ministers.

No tussle with judiciary over naming judges: Law minister

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government is looking at systems followed in different countries for appointment of judges, Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has said while asserting that there is "no tussle" between the Executive and the Judiciary and a good consultation process is being followed to fill vacancies in the higher judiciary.

Arjun Ram Meghwal

In an exclusive interview with PTI, Meghwal said that the government is examining systems adopted by various countries in the appointment of judges.

He, however, explained that appointment systems in other countries are being examined informally and no formal mechanism has been put in place to study them.

Responding to another question on differences between the Executive and the Judiciary over the appointment of Supreme Court and high court judges, Meghwal asserted that there is "no tussle" and "good consultations" take place.

Delhi building collapse toll rises to 6

NEW DELHI, PTI: Six people were killed and eight others injured in the collapse of a multi-storey commercial building housing a coaching centre, cafes and offices near Saket Metro Station in south Delhi, with emergency teams continuing search and rescue operations over 24 hours after the incident.

Police sources said most of the victims were preparing for competitive examinations. An FIR has been registered under relevant sections, including culpable homicide, and teams have been constituted to investigate the circumstances that led to the collapse, and arrest the owner of the building, an official said.

Another TMC leader attacked; protest today

BJP murdering democracy, says party chief Mamata

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The Trinamool Congress's chief whip in Lok Sabha, Kalyan Banerjee, was injured in an attack, allegedly by BJP workers, in Hooghly on Sunday, a day after the party's general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was assaulted in South 24 Parganas district.

Kalyan suffered head injury in the attack near a police station in Chanditala in Hooghly district. He was on his way to the police station to submit a memorandum to protest against the post-poll arrest of local TMC workers.

"BJP is murdering democracy," TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee posted on X. She visited Kalyan's residence and enquired about his injuries.

"They targeted Abhishek Banerjee yesterday, and me today. The BJP wants to intimidate us and silence our voices of protest. But our fight against the BJP government's culture of political intimidation, misuse of state machinery and the steady erosion of democratic values will continue, come what may," Kalyan told journalists.

However, TMC's internal problems continued. Only about 20 of the party's 80 legislators attended a meeting called by Mamata at her residence in Kolkata on Sunday.

BJP hits back

BJP on Sunday reiterated that its workers were not involved in the attacks. State minister Agnimitra Paul said the attacks were manifestations of public anger.

The police arrested five people in connection with the attack on Abhishek.

Paul alleged that those arrested were supporters of former TMC legislator from Sonarpur Arundhati Maitra.

The Trinamool Congress debunked the claims.

"We stand united and resolute in our fight to protect the soul of India, defend its democratic institutions and uphold the values enshrined in our Constitution," Abhishek posted on X, thanking Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for condemning the attack on him.

Meanwhile, TMC will start an agitation on Monday to protest the attacks on its leaders. Mamata will launch a sit-in demonstration on Tuesday against the attacks, police action against party workers and bulldozing of makeshift shops across the state.

Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee meets party MP Kalyan Banerjee as the latter claimed to have suffered head injuries after being mobbed in front of a police station in Hooghly district on Sunday. PTI

Asking questions doesn't make you anti-national, Rahul tells students

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday rallied behind students who were called "anti-nationals and Pakistanis" for asking "simple questions" to the Modi government over the CBSE OSM row and said they deserve a "bright and secure" future.

Sharing a video of his "revealing chat with my fellow anti-national Soros agents" on 'X', he said, "Vedant and his friends are brilliant, brave young Indians who asked CBSE and the Modi government simple questions - but got insults instead of answers."

"They deserve a bright and secure future. We will make sure they get it," he said. Vedant Shrivastava's post, alleging that the physics answer sheet uploaded by the CBSE under the revaluation process was not his, had gone viral.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during an interaction with CBSE board students. PTI

A day before, Rahul had accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of destroying India's education sector while demanding the sacking of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

In the video, Rahul is discussing the ordeal the students underwent while asking them how they were labelled "Pakistanis" and "deep state agents" after they raised their "legitimate concerns and issues" about mismatched answer sheets.

"You are students. You are asking for your answer sheets, that's all. Now, suddenly, you have become anti-nationals. You (government) have to accept the problem if you have to solve the problem. You are refusing to accept the problem and blaming the poor kids and saying you (students) are the deep state, you are spies, terrorists," he said in the video.

Students, including Vedant, who was part of the group that interacted with Rahul, told the Congress leader how they were called "anti-nationals" and "Pakistanis" as also "deep state agents".

When one of the students said they were called "deep state agents", he laughed, "a 17-year-old deep state agent". He is also heard asking them whether they were called terrorists and pat came the reply, "yes."

PM has time to talk about mangoes but not students: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday doubled down on his attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the CBSE On-Screen Marking (OSM) row, saying that the latter had time to speak about mangoes in his "Mann ki Baat" podcast, but not for the 18.5 lakh students whose answer sheets were scanned with phones.

Rahul said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was still in office, and Modi's "silence is no longer indifference" but "complicity", as fresh revelations purportedly showed that answer sheets were scanned using mobile phones.

Rahul said the CBSE's tender in May 2025 seeking bids for OSM required answer sheets to be scanned with automatic robotic scanners, with spines preserved, at a minimum of 300 DPI (dots per inch). A reissued tender in August "quietly removed all of it", with "scanners" becoming generic and resolution dropping to 200 DPI.

"Now we know what that meant in practice. It has been exposed that COEMPT scanned the answer sheets using phones. The blurred copies, the missing pages, the unscanned books - they are not 'errors'," he said.

Vice Prez Radhakrishnan warns youth may follow 'cockroach' if positive news is ignored

KOTTAYAM, PTI: Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday said youngsters would end up following the "cockroach," in a veiled reference to the CJP, if positive activities and achievements were not reported adequately.

He stressed that constructive journalism is essential to guide society and strengthen public confidence.

CP Radhakrishnan

Speaking as the chief guest at the celebrations marking the 140th anniversary of the Malayalam daily *Deepika*, Radhakrishnan said positive developments should receive greater attention in the media so that young people are exposed to the right information and role models.

"Positive activities should be reported well. Only then will youngsters receive the right information. Otherwise, they will lose interest and end up following the 'cockroach,'" he said.

Radhakrishnan said he was not against freedom of expression but questioned the tendency to give disproportionate attention to issues that may not stand the test of time.

Apparently referring to the buzz generated by the Cockroach Janata Party (a satirical social media account), particularly among youngsters, he questioned whether something truly deserved so much attention in a single day.

"If something is genuinely good, people will continue to recognise its value after a week, 10 days, or even a month," he said.

"Nobody knows about them. All of a sudden, they are everywhere. That cannot last," Radhakrishnan added, while stressing that noble ideas and positive messages should reach every nook and corner of society and contribute to nation-building.

The satirical platform emerged recently following a controversy around remarks attributed to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant regarding "cockroaches" and "parasites" during a court hearing on the "senior" designation of lawyers.

The satirical platform emerged recently following a controversy around remarks attributed to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant regarding "cockroaches" and "parasites" during a court hearing on the "senior" designation of lawyers.

The CJI later clarified that his observations, directed at individuals entering the legal profession through "fake and bogus degrees," were misquoted.

Singer Suman Kalyanpur dies at 89

MUMBAI, PTI: Veteran singer Suman Kalyanpur, who gave her voice to hits such as "Na Na Karte" and "Tumne Pukara", passed away on Sunday evening at her residence due to age-related issues, a close friend said. She was 89.

"Suman ji passed away around 8 pm at her residence in Lokhandwala due to old age. She passed away peacefully. For the last few days, she was listening to her own songs," Mangala Khadilkar, who authored the biography *Suman Sugandh*, said.

Suman Kalyanpur

Kalyanpur gained popularity with her melodious voice between the 1960s and 1970s. She managed to create a niche for herself alongside the top singer of the time, Lata Mangeshkar.

Some of Kalyanpur's popular songs are *Aajkal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche*, *Na Na Karte Pyar Tumhin Se*, *Tumne Pukara Aur Hum Chale Aaye* and many others.

She sang in several languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Assamese, Kannada and Bengali. She also sang devotional songs, ghazals and thumris.

The last rites will be held on Monday.

IMD says heatwave subsided; showers cool states

NEW DELHI, PTI: Overcast skies, along with sporadic rainfall, prevailed in several states on Sunday, keeping the mercury subdued in most parts, as the IMD said heatwave conditions have abated in the country.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts moderate to severe thunderstorm activity with squally wind speed of up to 90 kmph over northwest, central and adjoining east India. It also said the northwest monsoon may advance into parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu over the next three-four days.

Meanwhile, heavy downpours and adverse weather conditions triggered disruptions across Uttarakhand, leading to the temporary suspension of the Kedarnath Yatra and leaving hundreds of pilgrims stranded. The restriction was lifted later in the day as rains ceased and weather conditions improved.

Police personnel rescue pilgrims from a swollen river following heavy rainfall in Champawat district, Uttarakhand, on Sunday. PTI

Additionally, a major tragedy was averted at the Sri Reetha Sahib Gurdwara in Champawat district after the rescue of more than 50 pilgrims who were trapped in a swollen river during the annual Jod Mela, officials said.

A dust storm swept through parts of Rajasthan for the second day, leading to a drop in temperature.

A thick cloud of dust was seen rising on the horizon in the Jaisalmer district before moving towards inhabited areas, reducing visibility and intensifying wind conditions. However, no damage or casualty was reported.

Light to moderate rainfall was also recorded in the state in some areas.

Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 35.8 degrees Celsius, 4.2 degrees below normal, with most of its stations seeing temperatures lower than the seasonal average.

The IMD announced a yellow alert with a forecast of generally cloudy skies with light rain or thunderstorms at a few places in the city. The minimum temperature is expected to settle at 25 degrees and the maximum at 36 degrees on Monday. However, temperatures are expected to gradually rise from Monday as the current spell of rain activity moves away from the region.

In Himachal Pradesh, several parts received light to moderate rainfall over Saturday and Sunday.

In Uttar Pradesh, the state capital Lucknow received 2.4 mm of rainfall.

SIR THIRD PHASE KICKS OFF

• Third phase of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) covers 16 states, 3 UTs	Exercise began on May 30	• Opened in 4 states – Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur
• House-to-house enumeration runs till June 28		• All eligible electors with enumeration forms to be included in draft rolls
• Those who couldn't submit forms can apply via Form 6		• Booth-level officers to visit households for distribution, collection, verification
• Forms accepted through booth-level officers or online		

(Source: Election Commission of India)

Man hacl

Kani Madayya suspected Nagammna had affairs with other men

BENGALURU, DHNS

Suspecting his wife of having extramarital affairs, a man allegedly hacked her to death with a machete and

UP man friend, disp

BENGALURU, DHNS

Gangammagudi police arrested a man who murdered his friend under the influence of alcohol and disposed of the body.

The arrested suspect, Ravindra Kumar, and the victim, Vidhya Prasad alias Vidhyabharathi, are from Uttar Pradesh and came to Bengaluru months ago in search of jobs.

They found work as painters and rented a house near Abbigere.

Police said a body had

Deputy tahsil

HASSAN, DHNS: A deputy tahsildar serving at Saligrama in Mysuru district, ended his life by hanging at a lodge in Hassan city on Saturday.

Thimmaiah (52), a native of Kodagu district, is the deceased. Thimmaiah, was living with his family members at a house in Dyavamma Layout in Hassan city.

Nepal PM's 'encroached India' remark stirs row

'Kathmandu, Delhi exchanged notes on border dispute'

KATHMANDU, PTI

Balendra Shah. PTI FILE

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Sunday said he has learnt about his country "encroaching" territories in India, as he sought to answer questions in the parliament on a long-running border dispute.

In his maiden appearance in the ongoing parliament session that started on May 11, Shah further said India and Nepal have agreed to take the help of historians, surveyors and experts to seek a resolution, adding that Kathmandu has also taken up the matter with China and the United Kingdom.

Nepal and India have had an old boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani, with both countries claiming the areas. India maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand and has said the issue should be addressed through bilateral dialogue.

New Delhi did not immediately respond to the Nepal PM's comments on Sunday. But earlier this month, while rejecting Nepal's objection to the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the long-established Lipulekh Pass, India had dismissed Kathmandu's territorial claims over the region as an "unilateral artificial enlargement" that New Delhi finds "untenable." Shah told the parliament on Sunday: "The Nepal government has officially sent a diplomatic note to India, mentioning the issue of encroachment of territories by India, including Lipulekh."

"Both the countries have agreed to resolve the issue sitting together with the help of historians, surveyors and concerned experts through diplomatic means," he said.

When specifically asked by a lawmaker about the government's view on the dispute concerning the Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani areas, Shah said it is not only India that has "encroached" land in Nepal, the latter too had done the same with its southern neighbour.

Over 45 killed in blast at building storing explosives in Myanmar

Area located close to China border under armed group's control

BANGKOK, AP

A blast on Sunday at a building in northeastern Myanmar said to have been storing explosives for mining has killed more than 45 people, according to rescue workers and independent media reports.

About 70 other people were injured in the explosion that took place around noon in the village of Kaungtup, in Namhkam township.

The area, located about 3 km south of the Chinese border, is under the control of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, an ethnic armed group which has engaged in sporadic fighting against Myanmar's central government.

A rescue worker who rushed to the site of the blast told The Associated Press that 46 bodies, including six children, had been recovered by Sunday evening and taken for cremation.

The rescuer, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said 74 injured people had been transported to the township hospital and rescue operations were continuing.

Another rescuer in Namhkam, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said about 40 people were killed and more than 100 houses near the blast site were damaged.

Myanmar media outlets, including Shan State's online Shwe Phee Myay news agency, reported death tolls ranging from 50 to 55. They published photos and videos showing smoke from the explosion and damaged buildings and debris in its aftermath.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported the explosion caused multiple deaths and injuries, with many residential houses being severely damaged, but did not give figures.

It said that according to preliminary investigations, the blast occurred at a site where large quantities of explosives used for mining operations were stored.

Local authorities are currently providing relief, medical care and resettlement assistance to affected residents, said the report.

Drone hits captured nuclear plant in Ukraine, says IAEA

VIENNA, AFP: A drone hit the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Russian-occupied southern Ukraine, the UN nuclear agency confirmed Sunday.

"The IAEA team at the ZNPP (Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant) observed damage to the exterior of a turbine building which the plant said was hit by a drone strike yesterday," the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency posted on social media.

"The team's observations are consistent with the impact of a drone," it added, noting that "radiation levels at the site remain normal".

The plant lies close to the frontline in southern Ukraine.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Singer Dua Lipa and Hollywood actor Callum Turner are officially married, having tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in London on Sunday. REUTERS FILE

Over 200 injured, 1 killed in post-game violence in Paris

▶ More than 200 people were injured and one person died in Paris following Paris Saint-Germain's second consecutive Champions League win, the interior ministry said on Sunday, reviving France's heated debate about street violence, reports Reuters from Paris.

A day after PSG beat Arsenal in a nail-biting Budapest penalty shoot-out, cementing their place on the throne of European football, fans were taking to the Champ de Mars open space near the Eiffel Tower to hail the players staging a victory parade on Sunday afternoon. But, as last year, the celebrations were partly overshadowed by hefty street violence in the night after the game in which 57 police were injured in Paris and over 400 people taken into custody, a few of them outside the capital, authorities said. Some storefronts in Paris were destroyed while rioters also torched cars and stands of rental bikes, police said.

There was some vandalism against public buildings in provincial towns such as Orleans, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said.

Colombia votes for new Prez

▶ Colombians voted Sunday in a presidential election that could shift the country's response to rising guerrilla violence, choosing between extending spluttering peace talks or turning to a hard?right military crackdown, reports AFP from Bogotá.

Pre?election polls showed left?wing senator Ivan Cepeda leading, but facing a strong challenge from hard?right lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella, a pro?Trump outsider.

The vote is in part a referendum on Colombia's first-ever leftist government and his "total peace" initiative -- a policy of holding talks with dissident guerrilla groups.

Experts say guerrillas and other armed groups have used peace overtures to strengthen their positions and to produce record amounts of cocaine.

No deal with US until rights secured: Iran

TEHRAN, AFP:

Iran's chief negotiator warned the United States is not to be trusted Sunday, saying Tehran would not agree to any deal with Washington unless it fully secures Iranian rights.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf's remarks came as reports emerged that US President Donald Trump had sent a tougher peace proposal back to Iran, and underlined rift that the parties still need to close.

People shop at a market in Sadeghiyeh Square, in Tehran on Sunday. AFP

Any further tweaks to the draft could further delay an agreement to formally end the Middle East war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz after weeks of fraught negotiations marked by sharp rhetoric and occasional flare-ups of violence. Iran was already in negotiations with the United States about the fate of its nuclear programme in February, when the US and Israel launched air and missile strikes that wiped out much of the Islamic republic's senior leadership.

And, while Tehran has long insisted that its nuclear programme is for purely civilian ends, the United States and its Western allies have long suspected it aims to develop a weapon.

The New York Times and Axios reported on Saturday that Trump had sent back a "tougher" new framework to be considered by Iran, though details remain unclear.

Trump has said his priorities include stopping Iran from any nuclear weapon development and re-opening the Hormuz shipping lane.

Israeli army captures strategic castle in Lebanon

BEIRUT, AP: Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in their deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter century.

The capture of Beaufort Castle near the city of Nabatiyeh came after days of intense fighting and airstrikes in nearby villages, where Israeli troops fought Hezbollah members in the rugged area.

The capture of the castle marks a major gain for Israel since the latest Israel-Hezbollah war began in early March, and as the two countries that have been in a state of war since Israel was created in 1948 hold direct talks in Washington.

As Pentagon pushes for battlefield AI, military leaders urge caution

TAMPA (US), AP

The Trump administration is pushing to unleash the power of artificial intelligence for the US military while facing calls to put up guardrails around the rapidly developing technology from some companies - and even notes of caution from top leaders in uniform.

Adm Frank Bradley, head of US Special Operations Command, told attendees of a recent annual special forces conference in Tampa, Florida, that troops "have to be very careful about how we come to (AI's) employment and its inspiration into the delivery of lethality." Bradley said he can see a future where AI determines what targets to hit but that "we, as humans, have to have the confidence that... it's going to deliver violence only where we intend it to be delivered."

The remarks from Bradley, who oversees the units that handle the military's most difficult and dangerous operations, about the need to ensure safeguards come as his boss, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, is pushing to rapidly evolve the military through AI. It is a push that has led to clashes with some tech companies worried about safety measures.

Hegseth has insisted that the Pentagon be allowed to use the technology any legal way it sees fit. He told an audience of SpaceX employees in January he would reject any AI models "that won't allow you to fight wars" and that his vision for the technology was systems that operate "without ideological constraints that limit lawful military applications."

AI's use in the military is part of the Republican administration's larger push to grow the capability it sees as a unique American advantage.

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M/s. Ramchi Agros, Plot No.45, 46, 47, 1st Phase, Antharasanahalli Industrial Area, Sira Road, Tumkur, bearing **SOD A/c No.100247,** represented by its **partners Sri. Shivaramu. B.N** S/o Late. Narayanappa.B.M and **Sri. Dayananda.B.N** S/o Late. Narayanappa.B.M are the **borrowers** and **Sri. Shivaramu.B.N, Sri. Dayananda. B.N** and Sri. Shivaramu. B.N's family members **Sri. Naveen. B. N, Smt. Komala, Sri. Raghu.B.N** and **Smt. Jayamma B.G.,** Residing at Ballagere, Nagavalli Post, Hebburu Hobli, **Tumkur** Taluk, **Sri. B.M.K Gowda, Smt. Mamatha, Sri. Sharath,** Residing at **Mysore, Sri. K.G. Boraiah, Smt. B.R. Ratna, Sri. Ravi Kumar. K.B** and **Smt. Smitha B.N.,** Residing at No.152, 7th 'C' Main, 19th Cross, 3rd Block, 4th Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, **Bangalore** are the **guarantors** have availed loan facility from our society and have mortgaged several properties standing in their names as security for the said loan. **They are defaulters in repayment of the said loan and the Account became N.P.A and Legal Proceedings are initiated against the Properties.** The Property Holders are trying to sell their properties, anybody deals in this regard is not legal. **This is for information to General Public.**

Date: 26-05-2026
Place: Tumkur

Chief Executive Officer
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DECCAN HERALD
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Paper leaks, blotched valuation, broken trust

After the fiasco of a paper leak in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) examination conducted by the National Testing Agency, the large-scale bungling of the evaluation of answer sheets of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 exam has raised serious questions about the ability of educational authorities to conduct examinations. The On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, which was introduced with fanfare as a high-tech system, more efficient and transparent than the earlier one, turned out to be a flop, and has created anxiety and uncertainty for about 1.8 million students. The pass percentage was the lowest in recent years, and when students sought re-evaluation of their papers, it was found that the evaluation was done badly. Poor scanning left the answer scripts blurred. Some were mixed up and left unmarked. Some answer sheets were missing, and correct answers were not marked.

The CBSE first tried to cover up the bungling. The student who first made the problem public faced online hostility and abuse. The Class 12 examination is very important, and the results define the careers of many students. Lakhs of students are now unsure of their results and marks. According to reports, four lakh students applied for the revaluation of their papers. It has now come to be known that the agency which was entrusted with implementing the system did not have the right credentials, and has been involved in controversies earlier. Adequate preparations were not made, and teachers were not trained before rolling out the system. The CBSE ignored warnings from teachers and others against its hasty deployment. It is now trying to defend the system. Its offices have sent unsigned messages to school principals telling them to make social media posts defending the system.

Mismanagement of so many consequential exams has affected the students' faith in the examination system

IIT Madras has been asked to correct the technical problems in the OSM. There are demands for an independent investigation, and there is a case for it. On Saturday, another national examination, the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) UG 2026, faced disruption at many centres because of a technical glitch. Mismanagement of so many consequential exams has affected the students' faith in the examination system. Hearing a petition on the NEET paper leakage, the Supreme Court said that responsibility for it must be fixed. The government told the court that the prime minister was himself monitoring the matter. Does that mean there was a lack of effective monitoring till now? It is unfortunate that the person at the top of the examination system, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, continues to be at its helm, even though he has said that he accepted responsibility for the failures. Democracy demands accountability in deeds, not in words.

Legal win, ecological questions remain

The Supreme Court's dismissal of Tamil Nadu's review petition against the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir has cleared a major legal hurdle for Karnataka. By ruling the challenge premature, the apex court reaffirmed that preparing a Detailed Project Report does not amount to construction approval. It also underlined a key principle: complex river management disputes must first be examined by technical bodies such as the Central Water Commission and the Cauvery Water Management Authority, and not settled prematurely through litigation. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has sought the prime minister's intervention.

For Karnataka, the Mekedatu project is tied directly to Bengaluru's water security. The city's explosive growth has placed enormous pressure on the Cauvery, which already supplies much of its drinking water. Karnataka argues that the balancing reservoir would store surplus monsoon flows that now rush into the sea, while providing a buffer in distress years. It contends such storage would enable more predictable releases to Tamil Nadu, protect its own irrigation needs, and generate 400 megawatts of hydroelectric power. Tamil Nadu's opposition, too, is rational. For the delta districts, Cauvery water is an existential necessity, sustaining lakhs of farmers. Chennai fears that a massive upstream reservoir would place downstream flows entirely under Karnataka's control, especially in poor monsoon years when tensions peak. Tamil Nadu also argues that neither the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award nor the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment authorised new upstream storage. The project location within the ecologically fragile Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary adds further complexity. Environmentalists warn of forest submergence, disrupted elephant corridors, biodiversity loss, and irreversible ecological damage. Bengaluru's water needs are real, so are the environmental costs.

The Cauvery basin must be managed as a shared ecological and economic lifeline

The answer, therefore, cannot lie in competitive political rhetoric. Cauvery is among India's most emotionally volatile inter-state disputes, capable of inflaming regional passions within hours. What is required is an institutional, science-driven framework insulated from politics. A transparent distress-sharing formula based on real-time rainfall and reservoir data, jointly monitored by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, is essential. Simultaneously, both states must reduce dependence on fresh Cauvery water through wastewater recycling, rainwater harvesting, and crop-pattern rationalisation. Mekedatu cannot become a symbol of victory for one state and defeat for another. Unless the Cauvery basin is managed as a shared ecological and economic lifeline, legal victories alone will never produce lasting peace.

LIST MISUSED

Weaponisation of SIR

In West Bengal and Bihar, millions are being stripped of their access to food and welfare after being left out of electoral rolls

VISHAL R CHORADIYA

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was presented by the Election Commission of India as a routine exercise to clean up electoral rolls — removing the deceased, the duplicate, and the absent. It has since become something far more dangerous.

In West Bengal and Bihar, both now governed by the BJP for the first time, the SIR is being wielded as an instrument to strip millions of their access to food, welfare, and basic State protections. The consequences are severe, and the communities most likely to be affected are India's most defenceless.

Within days of taking office, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's Cabinet announced that those deleted from voter rolls under the SIR would be ineligible for welfare schemes.

The state's new Annapurna Yojana — replacing the TMC's Lakshmir Bhandar — explicitly excludes SIR-deleted individuals, while carving out an exception for those who have applied under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). In Bihar, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary went further, declaring that the deleted would receive no government benefits "including ration", and that their bank passbooks would be cancelled "in due course". In his own words: "Those who do not exist, how can they get ration?"

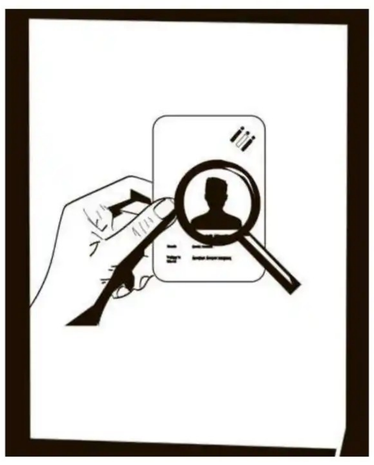
The legal infirmity of these moves is plain. Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Lokur has stated unambiguously that voter lists serve "the limited purpose of voting" and that extending their reach to determine welfare eligibility "can result in chaos".

Former Chief Election Commissioner O P Rawat has noted that "there are many government schemes where citizenship is not a criteria" and that for those where it is, it is the home ministry — not the Election Commission — that determines citizenship. Former Madras High Court judge Justice K Chandru has been more direct: "SIR has nothing to do with welfare schemes. The action taken by the two governments is completely illegal."

The right to food is not a privilege conditional upon voter registration. It flows from the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution — a right guaranteed not merely to citizens but to all persons on Indian soil.

Linking ration access to SIR status is, on its face, unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court's own ruling upholding the SIR confirms this. It explicitly clarifies that SIR verification is not the final word on citizenship, and that determination remains with the Union government under the Citizenship Act.

The scale of exclusion is staggering. In West Bengal, nearly 91 lakh names were removed from the rolls, including over 27 lakh flagged for 'logical discrepancies' — name mismatches, spelling



errors, clerical mistakes — whose appeals remained unheard when the state went to polls. In Bihar, around 47 lakh voters were struck off.

Researchers and activists have long documented how administrative errors disproportionately fall upon those who are already marginalised and face persistent barriers in accessing documents — Dalits, Adivasis, women, the poor, and religious minorities. These are exactly the people most reliant on State welfare. Excluding them effectively punishes Indian citizens for the State's own record-keeping failures.

The communal dimension of what is unfolding cannot be overlooked. The BJP's campaign in West Bengal was built around the slogan of *ghuspaithiyas* (infiltrators), deployed almost exclusively as a coded reference to Muslims.

Home Minister Amit Shah declared at a campaign rally that while the Election Commission had "only removed infiltrators from the electoral rolls", the BJP's larger task would be to "drive them out of the country's borders". In Parliament, he framed the SIR's purpose as to "detect, delete and deport".

Meanwhile, the State notification for Annapurna Yojana explicitly protects those who have applied under the CAA — a law that by design excludes Muslims — from exclusion, even as those whose names were deleted for administrative reasons face the full force of the State's retribution.

The Assam precedent offers a grim preview. The National Register of Citizens in Assam, presided over by the Supreme Court for years at enormous human cost, was quietly abandoned after it excluded more Hindus than Muslims. Yet detention camps built in its wake remain operational.

West Bengal is now moving in the same direction: the state's home department has directed all 23 districts to establish holding centres for detained "illegal immigrants", following MHA guidelines issued in May 2025.

The chief minister has announced that alleged infiltrators will be handed over to the BSF rather than produced in court. The SIR in West Bengal is beginning to look less like an electoral exercise and more like the infrastructure for a *de facto* NRC — one conducted without legislative sanction, judicial oversight, or any reliable data to justify it.

That last point demands emphasis. Neither the Election Commission nor the Union government has made public any figure showing how many actual foreign nationals were detected through the SIR process. The entire edifice of disenfranchisement, welfare denial, and now detention infrastructure rests on an assertion, not a demonstrated fact. With no official count of the infiltrators supposedly found, the inevitable conclusion is that these measures serve a political and ideological purpose, not an administrative one.

The Supreme Court must now go further. Having upheld the SIR as an electoral exercise, it must make equally clear that SIR exclusions cannot determine welfare eligibility for millions of vulnerable citizens.

As Justice Lokur has urged, the court must "come down with a sledgehammer". With welfare access already being denied, ration cards set to be cancelled, and holding centres being established, the court cannot treat its SIR judgment as the end of the matter. It has both the authority and the obligation to halt this now before it becomes irreversible.

(The author is an assistant professor with the Department of Professional Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A yarn worth spinning

True or not, my father held us in thrall with his story of a humble knitter

INDU SURYANARAYAN

Knitting has been familiar to me as long as I can remember, yet it never ceases to be something I marvel at if I think of it in any depth. I continue to pursue it as a hobby that I started as a child. Even now, every Friday from 9 am to 12 noon, some 18 of us ladies meet at the local senior centre as the knitting group. We have coffee and pastries and spend the morning knitting and socialising. The scarves, baby blankets, sweaters, hats, and mittens we knit go on a table every week, and at the end of the month are given away in charity to local organisations like hospitals and homeless shelters.

Though knitting as a hobby fascinates me, I have never bothered to find its origin. If I were to search he Internet, I may find answers to how, why, and when it started. I prefer to marvel at it only, and what better way to do that than to climb right into the middle!

Today knitting is called a fibre art and is universal. Where the weather becomes cold, the knitters concentrate on socks and hats. A knitted sock was the hero of a story that my father used to tell us when we were children. Being a textile chemist, he worked at the Binny Mills in Bengaluru and was good at telling stories of mills, chimneys, and British bosses.

It was somewhere in Wales or Scotland that a textile mill was being built with a 200-foot-high chimney. The work was completed over many months, and the workers started coming down, getting dropped by a pulley that went up and down by means of a rope. All got down safely except for one; the rope broke and the pulley dropped to the ground. Lost was the connection between the chimney top and the ground. There was commotion and fear, and people began to gather to witness the crisis.

One of the onlookers decided to convey the news to the man's wife. He ran all the way and told the woman what had happened. The smart woman dropped what she was doing and began running towards the mill.

She arrived and assessed the situation. She took off her shoe and then her sock. She had a brilliant plan. She held the sock up, undid the top, and pulled out the end of the yarn. When she had a yard of the yarn, she tied a small stone and dangled it so the sock started unravelling and the yarn grew longer. The man on top understood the lesson fast. He repeated the gesture so the stone he tied to his sock came down and the workers could fix the pulley; he pulled it up, fixed it and brought him down. My father would tell the story with such gusto that we would marvel at the heroic deed of the humble woman knitter and even forget to ask if it was a true story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is the Election Commission of India even apolitical?

I refer to your editorial 'A troubling nod for electoral exclusion' (May 30). The Supreme Court's green signal to the ECI to proceed with the SIR is both unfortunate and detrimental to the very tenets of democracy, as it presupposes the exclusion, rather than the inclusion of voters. The SIR appears to have been conceived with a well-planned design to target West Bengal. Since the ECI could not directly target West Bengal, it appears to have taken a detour through other states. The apex court could have done better by taking up the petition challenging the exclusion of the judiciary from the panel to select the chief election commissioner. As matters stand, the ECI, a Constitutional body, no longer appears apolitical, contrary to what the Constitution envisaged. Consequently, any decision taken by ECI is likely to be viewed as partisan and favourable to the ruling party. No amount criticism can right this wrong.

T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

An ambition fulfilled

This refers to 'DKS to take oath on June 3, chooses austere ceremony, (May 31). Finally, the ambition of leading Karnataka has come to fruition for long-time Congress loyalist D K Shivakumar. Making it to the top seat of Karnatka's government was an uphill battle as people generally and most of MLAs supported outgoing CM Siddaramaiah. The Congress has also decided to have four deputy CMs to retain the support of major vote banks. With the next election still two years away, we will have to wait and watch how these arrangements work out, especially for the people of Karnataka.

Yashi Bairagi, Bengaluru

Missing the point

Apropos 'Two arrested for serving beef at restaurant' (May 31), the headline is misleading as it creates the impression that the sale and consumption of beef are prohibited in Karnataka. In fact, the two individuals were arrested not for serving beef but for allegedly selling beef as mutton. Both the headline and the report overlooked the fact that the arrest was for fraudulently passing off beef as mutton.

Narayanan N, Bengaluru

Students deserve better

In the wake of the NEET-UG paper leak, the examination had to be cancelled, affecting lakhs of students and disrupting their academic and professional aspirations. Disruptions can cost students an entire academic year and impose additional financial burden. This reality needs to be recognised by the government and education system. Preventing such incidents is essentially an administrative responsibility, but governments continue to fail in this regard. Perhaps the value of education is insufficiently appreciated by the political leaders. The Union education minister refuses to resign over the inefficiency that has caused hardship to lakhs across India.

S Kamat, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

This is public anger...This party (TMC) runs on *tola baazi*, syndicate and cut-money. Serving the country is not their priority. That is why today, West Bengal has gone back 50 years at least, so this is public anger.

Agnimitra Paul, West Bengal Minister
(On attacks on TMC MPs Abhishek Banerjee and Kalyan Banerjee)

Don't let the fear of accountability drive you to seek refuge in the shadows of blame.

Carlos Wallace

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Demography and the dual pattern

While national averages indicate progress, regional variations highlight different stages of development across India

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

The 2024 Sample Registration System report highlights a significant shift in India's demographic journey.

On a national scale, public health initiatives achieved steady progress over the last decade. Recent data shows the national birth rate dropped from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024. Simultaneously, the infant mortality rate — child deaths before age one per 1,000 live births — fell from 39 to 24, pointing to successful immunisation coverage and institutional deliveries.

However, a closer look reveals substantial differences in demographic profiles between regions. While national averages indicate progress, regional variations highlight different stages of development across the country. For instance, the infant mortality rate stands at 36 in Chhattisgarh, and 35 in both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. In contrast, Kerala records a rate of eight, followed by Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Himachal Pradesh at 11, indicating that local health infrastructure and maternal support vary significantly. This divergence is especially visible when comparing urban centres to rural areas.

The report places the rural infant mortality rate at 27 per 1,000 live births, compared to 17 in urban centres, suggesting that remote regions face distinct logistical challenges in healthcare delivery, public awareness, and maternal nutrition.

But birth and mortality rates only tell half the story; the underlying map of fertility reveals a deeper divergence. The national Total Fertility Rate — the average number of children born per woman — has remained stable at 1.9 for five consecutive years, falling below the standard population replacement level of 2.1. Statistically, this stabilisation is not uniform. Economically advanced areas report very low rates, with Delhi at 1.2, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal at 1.3.

With nearly 10% of India's population now aged 60 and older, these regions are transitioning into older demographic profiles. On the other hand, Bihar maintains the highest fertility rate at 2.9, indicating a youthful and growing population.

This dual pattern mirrors global trends, essentially making India a microcosm of the modern demographic world. Currently, approximately 71% of the global population lives in countries with fertility rates below the replacement level. Looking at East Asia, countries experience sharp demographic declines; South Korea records a fertility rate of 0.72, while China and Japan face shrinking workforces, impacting their domestic economies.

Similar trends are visible across Europe, where nations like Italy face declining birth rates, and the United States remains below replacement level at roughly 1.58.

The shift towards lower fertility rates globally is linked to urbanisation and economic development. In major cities, the high cost of housing and living presents a practical challenge for expanding families. Furthermore, higher educational attainment and career opportunities for women lead to delayed marriage and childbearing. When combined with rising costs of childcare, these socioeconomic factors naturally lead to smaller family sizes.

As a result, an ageing demographic profile introduces distinct economic structural challenges. With fewer young workers entering the labour force, public pension and healthcare systems face increased fiscal pressure to support retired populations. Developed nations are adapting to these labour shortages by raising statutory retirement ages, investing heavily in automation and artificial intelligence.

To bridge these widening regional gaps, we can learn from successful home-grown blueprints. For instance, Tamil Nadu has mastered medical logistics through a transparent, automated supply system that keeps even remote rural clinics fully stocked with free, high-quality medicines. Emulating this approach can directly help high-mortality regions upgrade healthcare delivery swiftly.

Similarly, Kerala's focus on decentralised governance — where local communities receive direct funding to manage their own health and social safety nets — offers a powerful lesson in building resilient systems for an ageing population. By putting resources directly into the hands of local councils, states can better address the unique day-to-day needs of citizens.

By applying these lessons, development resources can be targeted towards rural districts in states with higher infant mortality rates, focusing on local clinics, clean water supply, and maternal nutrition. Simultaneously, states with older demographic profiles, such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, can continue developing healthcare and social security frameworks tailored specifically for senior citizens.

Meanwhile, states with youthful populations like Bihar can focus on quality education, technical training, and employment generation, allowing the expanding workforce to contribute productively to the national economy.

To make this cross-regional economic engine work, implementing portable social benefits and supportive integration frameworks for migrating workforces will be vital. Finally, continuing to expand female literacy and reproductive healthcare nationwide remains essential, as these factors consistently support child survival and balanced family planning.

(The author is an independent writer)

Can Washington and Beijing escape the Thucydides Trap?

A RAVINDRA

During the recent summit talks between the United States and China (May 14-15), Chinese leader Xi Jinping referred to the term 'Thucydides Trap' and cautioned US President Donald Trump: "We all need to work together to avoid the trap."

The term was popularised by Graham Allison, a US political scientist, during the 1980s to describe an apparent tendency towards war when an emerging power threatens to displace an existing great power as a regional or international hegemon. Xi was alluding to the relationship between the US as the great power and China as the rising power.

Describing the protracted conflict between the two city-states of Athens and Sparta in ancient Greece, Greek historian Thucydides, in his classic work, *The Peloponnesian War*, opined that "it was the rise of Athens and the fear that it instilled in Sparta that made the war inevitable". Athens was a growing power with imperial ambitions that alarmed Sparta. Finally, Spartan dominance replaced Athenian supremacy, but the military and economic exhaustion weakened both city-states.

In his book, *Destined for War* (2017), Allison argued that "China and the US are currently on a collision course for war. Though not inevitable, war will be very difficult to avoid and requires extensive diplomatic attention and execution in the case of a 'Thucydides Trap'. Nearly a decade later, while there has not been any military war between the two, the world is witness to an intense economic war through trade and tariffs.

In a way, the current US-China conflict reflects the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union during the latter part of the 20th century, when trade between the two blocs was severely restricted. According to experts, in the current situation, the strong retaliatory stand taken by the two powers can create a head-on conflict between the Chinese law and the regime that US multinationals are required to follow. That's possibly why Xi brought up the proposal of avoiding the Thucydides Trap. It was a shrewd move on the part of the Chinese leader, putting the onus of avoiding a direct confrontation with the US President. While Trump did not respond to this proposition, the meeting did not produce any other kind of positive result, including commercial transactions.

Herman Wond, a World War II veteran, in a lecture delivered at the US Naval War College in 1980, compared the US-Soviet Cold War to the 'cold war' that developed between Athens and Sparta, once they had defeated their common enemy, Persia, and said: "And more than two millennium later, we seem still strapped in Thucydides world. None of the ways in which those quarrelsome Greeks behaved are suited to these dread times of nuclear menace, yet we still behave in those ways and can find no other. How do we break out of that Thucydides Trap which now threatens to strangle, if not destroy, the world?"

In the harsh reality of power relations, moral arguments count for little, and those with strength act according to their will, while the weak have to endure the consequences. In the tension between justice and power, ethical principles become subordinate to practical considerations of strength. This is the predicament in which India is placed today. While we may consider ourselves an emerging superpower, currently, both the US and China are much stronger, militarily and economically, and India is forced to play a subordinate role.

In ancient Greece, when the neutral island of Melos refused to negotiate with the stronger Athens, the latter conquered the island and enslaved their women and children. That's how the US is behaving now-in dealing with the much weaker Venezuela, whose President was kidnapped in the midnight from his bedroom, or with the less powerful but unyielding Iran. India has wisely adopted the way of negotiations to settle the tariff issue, while China has adopted a somewhat retaliatory stance because of its strength in manufacturing and critical minerals.

Allison carried out extensive research on the Thucydides Trap involving 16 case studies relating to conflicts between a ruling power and a rising power between the late 15th century and the late 20th century. The findings showed that in 14 cases, they ended in war. They all pertained to the European powers fighting for colonial supremacy and the US joining during the two world wars. The European power rivalry was finally settled only after the world wars, carrying terrible consequences. It also marked the rise of the US, and subsequently the Soviet Union, leading to the Cold War era, until the Soviet Union was split and the US emerged as the sole superpower.

How will the cold war between the ruling power, the US and the rising power,China play out in the future? How will the US respond to the Chinese proposal to manage the global challenges together, building a 'constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability' to avoid the Thucydides Trap?

Here, there is a lesson from recent European history — in how the European countries,after centuries of distrust and conflicts,embraced co-operation,leading to formation of the European Union.A new approach was adopted to resolve political disputes and trade issues viz,legal processes and treaty obligations,thanks to visionaries like Jean Monnet of France,Konrad Adeneur of Germany and George Marshall of United States.

Can the US and China and Russia (vis-à-vis Ukraine) act together in the interests of world peace, conforming to the international 'rules-based order', and can India play a part in this endeavour, or will Thucydides' words prevail: "The strong do what they have to do, the weak accept what they have to accept"?

(The writer is a former chief secretary, Government of Karnataka)

A remote gold mining town is under siege, as medical workers struggle to beat back a surge of deaths and infections

DECLAN WALSH

Health workers disinfect the entrance to a house before removing the body of a person whose suspected cause of death was Ebola, in Mongbwalu, Democratic Republic of Congo. NYT

Inside the Ebola epicentre, the virus rages with little to stop it

In the cramped, dilapidated Ebola ward, a five-year-old boy languished on a bare mattress, a tissue stuffed into his nose to stanch the incessant bleeding. His father stood over him, eyes clouded with worry. A few beds away lay the body of Christiane Bahati, 21, who had died seven hours earlier but had not yet been taken away. Her shoes were still tucked under the bed, her wailing relatives gathered outside the ward doors.

The body, covered by a thin sheet, was highly contagious. Yet hardly anyone in the ward was protected. Relatives came and went, carrying food and water to ailing patients because the hospital had none to give them. A few wore rubber gloves or pulled a scarf across their mouths. Most had nothing at all.

In the next ward lay the hospital's laboratory technician, also sick. Seven other hospital workers had already died from suspected Ebola. Few of the staff members had ever been trained to fight the disease, and the most rudimentary equipment was in dangerously short supply: tests, protective suits, goggles, masks, even drinking water.

Outside, the sound of hammering broke the hushed silence. Aid workers from Doctors Without Borders were racing to erect isolation tents and disinfection stations.

Alex Bogole, a Congolese doctor in the hospital's intensive care ward, was furious.

The virus had been spreading for months, virtually unimpeded, "and this is the best we can do?" he said, the frustration pouring through his protective gear.

This is the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak in Congo, and the front line is completely overwhelmed.

The Congolese Health Ministry declared the outbreak on May 15, and it has ballooned into the third largest on record. Two weeks later, the international response is being outpaced by the virus, and there is almost nothing to slow it down. Aid groups warn that without urgent intervention, this could be the world's deadliest Ebola outbreak ever.

Bogole was never trained for this and was angry at everyone — at the Congolese government for failing to detect the outbreak until perhaps six weeks after it began, and at the world, which has barely mobilised help here in Mongbwalu, a remote gold mining town of about 150,000 where the outbreak is believed to have started.

"They hold meetings and meetings," he said, struggling to contain his disdain. "What is the purpose of these meetings? People are dying, people are getting infected, people are in danger. It's very slow."

I arrived here with Arlette Bashizi, a photographer for *The New York Times*, after taking a bumpy, three-hour journey from the regional capital, Bunia, on what has become the Ebola highway, a rutted dirt road that began spreading the disease long before anyone detected it.

Giant trucks, curling through lush hills, leave blinding clouds of dust. Edgy-looking Congolese soldiers guard checkpoints that are often little more than string. Gold miners and people fleeing rebel conflict stream in and out of Mongbwalu, providing an excellent vector for the spread of the virus.

Through April and into early May, doctors in Mongbwalu found themselves fighting a mysterious disease that was taking dozens of lives in the town. It turned out to be Bundibugyo, a virus that causes Ebola. There is no approved vaccine or treatment.

As of Thursday, at least 1,077 suspected cases and 246 suspected deaths had been recorded in this outbreak, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 400 of those cases are in Mongbwalu, a town in the heart of gold country and surrounded by rebel-held territory in Ituri province, in northeastern Congo.

Ebola has swamped this hospital's meagre capacities.

Test kits for this species of the disease are hard to come by, and there is no triage station, so arriving patients who do not have Ebola risk being infected by those who do. In fact, it is hard to know who has Ebola because test results from the regional capital, some 50 miles away, take four days or more to arrive, said hospital director Richard Lokudu. By then, many patients have died.

"I've been telling people that we need results immediately," Lokudu said.

Wailing drifted into his office. Several times a day, news of the death of an Ebola patient sets off explosions of grief, he said. Relatives screamed, gesticulated and rolled around on the grass. Looking into his notebook, Lokudu produced a tally: At least 30 patients had died at the hospital over the previous 12 days. Many more had died in their homes across the town.

Beyond the hospital gates, residents were gripped by fear and confusion, he said. Mongbwalu had not been touched by the last Ebola outbreak in Ituri, which began in 2018 and did not end until 2020. Now, faced with a sudden surge in deaths, many refused to accept that the virus was real and focussed their ire on the hospital, Mongbwalu General, which has 135 beds.

Some said the outbreak was a moneymaking plot concocted by Congolese doctors and foreign aid workers. Others called it a curse. Often, doctors say, the early symptoms of Ebola resemble other ailments, such as malaria or typhoid, so by the time patients go to the hospital, many are already very sick and die quickly, heightening suspicion and distrust.

An angry crowd gathered outside the hospital's front gate, where armed soldiers stood guard. "Killers!" people shouted at us when we arrived, confusing us for foreign aid workers.

Two nights earlier, assailants had burned down an isolation ward in the hospital, shortly after Doctors Without Borders put it up. In the chaos, 18 patients suspected of having Ebola fled their beds and vanished into the town, potentially spreading the virus even more.

A four-wheel drive vehicle with a smashed window was parked outside Lokudu's office. A day earlier, angry residents had chased him through the hospital grounds, flinging rocks, he said.

"We're here to save them," he added. "They think we want to kill them." Lokudu believes he may have treated one of the outbreak's first victims.

On April 6, he said he operated on a young woman who had suffered a miscarriage during a late stage of her pregnancy. As he performed a caesarean section, he noticed unusual splotches of blood on her organs. Six hours later, he said, the woman died. In the weeks that followed, the medics who treated her fell sick.

The anaesthesiologist died on May 9, Lokudu said. The surgical assistant died a day later. Lokudu said he also fell sick around the same time, but survived. He is not sure how, though he noted that he had been vaccinated during the previous outbreak, albeit for a different species of Ebola. "Perhaps that saved me," he said.

Experts at the WHO say that a vaccine against this species of Ebola could take six to nine months to develop. Until then, "we must make do with what we have," Lokudu said. "Otherwise, who will do it?"

The doors of the Ebola ward swung open. A Red Cross worker emerged, wearing the same kind of a protective suit we had put on to enter the hospital wards. Spraying disinfectant in his path, he was followed by volunteers carrying a sealed white bag. It contained the remains of Bahati, the 21-year-old whose body had lain there for many hours after she had died.

Mourners grieved as the body bag was placed in a coffin, wailing and beating themselves. "Show us her body!" one cried out. Her husband, Héritier Alezo, watched from a distance. He still had not told their boys, aged 2 and 3, that their mother was gone. "How would they understand?" he said.

The New York Times

Dowry deaths: A tragedy India still refuses to confront

CHOODIE SHIVARAM

Twisha Sharma's tragic death has captured public attention and generated widespread media coverage. For decades, the abuse young women endure in their marital homes at the hands of their husbands and in-laws has remained stubbornly unchanged.

In 2000, I documented the stories of several women. Meena (name changed), a dedicated community worker, was gifted a plot of land by the State. Her husband demanded ownership. Months later, she was found hanging from a ceiling fan. Though her husband was the prime suspect, he was acquitted for lack of evidence, while Meena was posthumously labelled schizophrenic.

Anandhi (name changed), a scientist, was burned to death within months of her marriage after being subjected to relentless dowry harassment and demands for career favours from her family.

Amrita (name changed), her parents' only daughter, died after enduring horrific abuse, including starvation and cigarette burns.

In August 1999, Vimochana, an NGO, and the National Law School of India University organised the Truth Commission on Unnatural Deaths of Women in Marriage.

More than 70 cases were presented before a jury comprising former judges, lawyers, social activists, and representatives of the Law Commission. Families recounted chillingly similar stories of abuse by husbands and in-laws, followed by systemic attempts to disguise murders as suicides.

For three days, victims' families from across Karnataka spoke of humiliation at the hands of the police and the courts. Families were left physically, financially, and emotionally devastated while the accused secured bail or walked free.

In case after case, the police had facilitated the criminals. Complaints were ignored or registered as suicides or unnatural deaths rather than murder. Their daughters had died under suspicious circumstances, but the system looked away.

Vimochana volunteers visited the burns ward at Victoria Hospital, examined records from the Central Crime Research Bureau, scrutinised police files and travelled across districts seeking families willing to speak about daughters who had suffered abuse and later 'committed suicide'. They uncovered 5,560 cases, and to force public attention on the issue, they organised a hearing at Vidhana Soudha attended by legislators and senior police officers. The Truth Commission followed.

Nearly three decades later, little has changed. The suspicious deaths continue, as do the demands from marital homes.

Technology, social media, and contemporary lifestyles have, in some respects, complicated matters further. It must also be acknowledged that men and their families increasingly face the threat of false dowry allegations.

Nevertheless, women continue to face greater risks. Twisha's case exposed the dark reality of entitlement and the destructive consequences of behaviour that disregards basic human dignity.

Raising daughters today presents new challenges. Education and empowerment have fostered greater autonomy, limiting parental intervention. This creates a painful dilemma when an abused daughter is undecided and chooses to give her marriage another chance.

The era of parents making unilateral decisions has passed, replaced by a fear of overstepping boundaries. The insatiable demand for dowry fuels a toxic environment of marital abuse. The culture of extravagant weddings, lavish gifts, and ostentatious displays of wealth must end.

As we equip girls to conquer the world and reach new heights, it is the system's responsibility to guarantee their safety. Marital abuse is a universal issue prevalent even in highly developed nations; the critical factor is how effectively the legal and social systems address it. Some countries provide strong protection, remove women from danger, and help them rebuild lives of dignity and safety.

In India, a woman's natal family is often left to fight for her safety and justice. Taking on deeply entrenched systems can feel like a battle lost before it has even begun.

(The writer is a senior journalist and researcher)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Krishna water award binding and final

New Delhi, May 31

The adjudication on the Krishna water dispute, the first of its kind in the country, has been completed, the three States concerned have been allotted specified quantum of water and the decision is binding and final, Agriculture Minister Jagjivan Ram said here today. Announcing the award, he told pressmen that with the adjudication, one of the major river disputes had been resolved. When the schemes pending with the States concerned were completed, the nation would not only become surplus in agricultural commodities but would also be able to go for "sizable export."

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

Classes 1 to 5 to be primary education in State

Bangalore, May 31

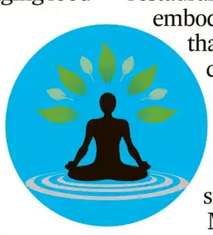
The State government today decided to classify first standard to fifth standard as primary education from the academic year 2001-2002 replacing the earlier classification of first standard to fourth standard, in accordance with the recommendation of the Education Task Force headed by Dr Raja Ramanna. The present structure of primary education in Karnataka is four years of lower primary education, three years of upper primary education and three years of high school. This means that many children drop out after four years of education if the upper primary school is located far away.

OASIS | JAYANTHI CHANDRASEKARAN

From waste to worth, the *mottainai* way

Most of us grew up hearing a familiar refrain from our parents and grandparents: finish everything on your plate; do not waste even a grain of rice. In Japan, this 'grandma sentiment' finds expression in the word *mottainai*. For example, throwing away perfectly good food is *mottainai*. It means it is a pity to waste not just food, but effort, care, and life itself.

At its core, *mottainai* is a philosophy of mindful living. It urges us to use resources fully, avoid excess, and recognise the life and effort embedded in everything we consume. When leftover rice becomes fried rice or porridge the next day, or when vegetable peels are turned into stock or compost, the act goes beyond saving money. It is not merely thriftiness but an acknowledgement of the labour of farmers, the nourishment of the soil, and the resources consumed in bringing food to the table.

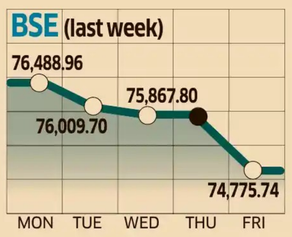


The idea gained global prominence through Nobel Peace Prize winner and Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai. She described mottainai as a powerful 'single-word idea' that not only encompasses the 3Rs — reduce, reuse, and recycle — of environmental protection activities but also adds a crucial fourth pillar, respect: respect for irreplaceable earth resources, for people, and for life itself.

The spirit of *mottainai* is evident in many everyday practices. Volunteers who collect surplus food from restaurants and share it with the needy embody this principle. Repair shops that fix household appliances, children mending their toys, and families repurposing old clothes — such as turning worn *saris* into quilts or cushion covers — are all expressions of *mottainai* in action.

Modern technology often pits convenience against sustainability. Frequent upgrades driven by trends lead to mounting electronic waste. However, simple actions — like replacing a battery or fixing a cracked screen — can significantly extend a device's lifespan, thus reducing electronic waste and combating one of today's fastest-growing environmental threats. Water conservation provides another urgent application. Rainwater harvesting, reusing water from rinsing vegetables for plants, or collecting wastewater from RO units for cleaning allows households to live out the mottainai ethic.

Ultimately, *mottainai* is not about deprivation; it is about appreciation, as explained in the children's picture book *Mottainai Grandma* in a friendly way. It teaches us to value our possessions, use them wisely and cultivate gratitude. By wasting less, we live more harmoniously with the world around us.



*Data as of May 29

*Markets were closed on Thursday, on account of Bakri Id

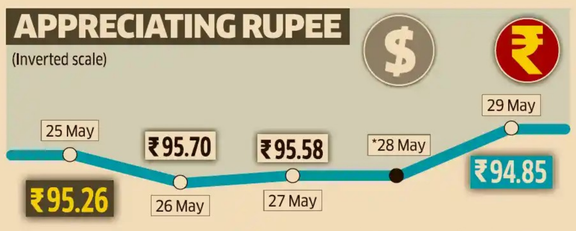
TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
TECHM	4.32%	ITC	-4.89%
LT	3.81%	HDFCBANK	-2.82%
ETERNAL	3.70%	TCS	-2.73%
HCLTECH	1.77%	HINDUNILVR	-2.55%
SBIN	1.57%	RELIANCE	-2.51%

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
TATA CONS	5.14%	ADANI ENT	-11.49%
POWER GRID	4.08%	GRASIM INDUS	-8.00%
NESTLE INDIA	3.20%	CIPLA	-7.64%
MAHI & MAHI	3.07%	TMPV	-7.29%
SBI	2.68%	WIPRO	-6.67%

Sensex (52-week) -8.40%
May 29, 2025: 81,633.02 | May 29, 2026: 74,775.74

Nifty (52-week) -5.18%
May 29, 2025: 24,833.60 | May 29, 2026: 23,547.75

10-year Bond yield 7.00%



*Markets were closed on May 28, on account of Bakri Id

Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹ 94.85	SGD	₹ 74.21
Pound	₹ 128.18	Yen (100 units)	₹ 59.89
Euro	₹ 111.11		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)
BRENT CRUDE
$91.12*
-1.70%
*Rate as of May 29

Bengaluru fuel pump price*
(Retail)
Petrol* ₹110.89 ₹0% ↔
Diesel* ₹98.80 ₹0% ↔
*Rates as of May 30 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹ 22500 - 23000
Arabica Cherry	₹ 12900 - 14400
Robusta Parchment	₹ 17600 - 18300
Robusta Cherry	₹ 9300 - 10200

*Rates as on May 28

Other Commodities
Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹ 645
Cross Breed (CB)	₹ 562

*Average rates as on May 29

UK foreign secretary to visit India, China

Yvette Cooper

LONDON, PTI: UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper will travel to China on Monday, before a visit to India, on a two-nation tour focused on tackling global challenges and bolstering cooperation.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the ministerial engagements with the two major powers are expected to cover the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Ebola outbreak in Africa. Cooper is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday, followed by interactions across business and academia.

Meeting with EAM

"The Foreign Secretary (Cooper) will be in India, where she will meet with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and meet with entrepreneurs, academics and government partners who are delivering on the UK-India Vision 2035," the FCDO said. Her visit to New Delhi comes nearly a year after the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart, Keir Starmer, last July.

The leaders also endorsed the 'UK-India Vision 2035' at the time to reaffirm a shared commitment to unlock the full potential of a "revitalised partnership".

It was dubbed an ambitious and future-focused agreement, which underscores both nations' resolve to work together for "mutual growth, prosperity, and to shape a prosperous, secure, and sustainable world in a time of rapid global change".

While the UK ratification process of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has progressed through Parliament, the FTA hit some hurdles over Britain's upcoming steel import restrictions.

The 2026 'India Meets Britain Tracker' found that bilateral trade between India and the UK rose to 47.4 billion pounds in 2025, an 11.7% YoY increase and a figure expected to be further boosted once the CETA is implemented in the coming weeks.

Lithuania reinvents as startup, technology hub of Europe

As Ukraine-Russia conflict drags, Baltic states scale up investment in DeepTech, defence, cybersecurity

SUMIT PANDE
VILNIUS (LITHUANIA)

Lithuania startup Ecosystem
2.8mn Population
16th Global ranking
1,000+ Active startups
Supportive regulatory environment
Low cost of living and a talent pool
Dedicated business facilitators
One-stop shops for startups and unicorns
Proactive financial regulators
Startup Visa Lithuania to invite non-EU talents
Dedicated innovation ecosystem dovetailed with academia
What Bangaluru can learn ?
CYBER CITY

A view of Cyber City in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

The first mass production of swimsuit in the Soviet bloc, they say, was done here, at the Sparta textile factory on Svirtigailos Street. Apart from the legends and a few surviving residential neighbourhoods, there isn't much left of the vintage brutalist architecture in old town Vilnius.

The abandoned warehouses have been replaced by glitzy Nordic structures in glass and steel. Occupying 35,000 square meters of space in the heart of Lithuania's capital, Cyber City is the tech district that hosts some of the fastest-growing startups in Europe, like Hostinger, Nord Security, Surfshark, and Oxylabs.

For a country with a population of less than three million, spread over 25,000 square miles, prioritising the high-tech sector in innovation and emerging technologies is both a compulsion and necessity borne out of the changing geopolitical situation in Europe and elsewhere.

Tucked away at the eastern Baltics, Lithuania is one of the fastest-growing tech hubs in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), capturing 25% of the Baltics FDI. Its capital, Vilnius, ranks third regionally for VC attracted with focus on cybersecurity, FinTech, DeepTech, and defence.

The current startup ecosystem has grown more than six times in the last five years, and is currently valued at more than 16 billion euros.

For instance, Hostinger the web-hosting company that serves more than 4 million clients worldwide, including small businesses and influencers, started building things around AI six years ago. That's before ChatGPT made headlines. 15% of the company clients are in India, mostly small and medium businesses who want to sell their products online.

"We try to play to our strength. In this age, it is not just about volume, it's about leverage of the brainpower. Being small, we can move faster," says Daugirdas Jankus, CEO or Hostinger.

Lithuania now boasts of more than a thousand startups, out of which some like Vinted, an online marketplace for second-hand apparel, have emerged as unicorns. Others include Nord Security (cybersecurity), Baltic Classifieds Group (online classifieds), Flo Health (women's health app), and Cast AI (cloud cost-optimisation).

"Last year, we released Horizons for website-building for the part where you can generate codes. You can generate app code using that. After three months, we released Hostinger Reach, which can be used for email marketing," says Mantas Lukauskas, AI Tech Lead.

Geopolitical compulsions and defence investment

Lithuania's startup story started in the mid-sixties, when researchers at the Vilnius University discovered and mastered laser technology.

Twenty-three years later, as the country declared independence from the Soviet Union, a group of 11 physicists got together to form a company to develop and market industrial laser. That's how Ekspla was born.

Situated on the outskirts of the city, the company is now one of the leaders in laser technology that has a wide use in material processing, and life sciences.

The technology developed is being further evaluated by an EU-funded consortium by creating new tools for early-stage detection of breast cancer.

"A lot of laser tools are now being used to make semiconductors. We can produce lasers that can be used for front-end applications or for packaging solutions," says Ekspla CEO Aldas Juronis.

More than 60 companies with expertise in laser technology are currently based in Lithuania, specialising in ultra-powerful lasers, serving different markets.

For the three eastern Baltic countries, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, who joined NATO after the disintegration of the USSR, the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine has complicated the situation.

Like many European countries, investment is defence has shot up.

"There is a lot happening around us and we have to be strong and resilient. We have a strong network of universities to start from the first phase of innovation," says Edvinas Grikšas, Lithuanian Minister for Innovation and Economics, in an apparent reference to the protracted Ukraine-Russia conflict, and the changing dynamics within NATO under the current US dispensation.

Lithuania has formalised a loan agreement of more than 6 billion euros under the EU's SAFE defence funding initiative to enhance its military capabilities to militate against potential Russian aggression. The country plans to increase its defence allocation to a record 5.38% of its GDP.

German automotive and arms manufacturer Rheinmetall is currently building a factory near Baisogala to manufacture 155-mm artillery shells at an estimated cost of 180 million euros.

A brick-and-mortar chimney standing in the middle of Vilnius Cyber City is the only surviving relic of the Soviet era in this tony district. It's like any other European neighbourhood.

(The journalist was in Vilnius at the invitation of the Lithuanian government)

DH INTERVIEW

'By coming to Lithuania, you also enter the European mkt'

Lithuania is scheduled to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first half of 2027. The country's Minister for Innovation and Economics, **Edvinas Grikšas**, speaks to *DH*'s **Sumit Pande**, on the potential city-to-city ties between Bengaluru and Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital that is fast-emerging as a major central European tech hub. *(Edited excerpts)*

What can Lithuania offer to India in the cybersecurity mechanisms? Have you been in touch with any industries or government?

I had quite a lot of meetings during my trip to India. And with colleagues from cybersecurity as well. And of course, with ministers, we discussed the possible cooperation points in this field. Cybersecurity is one of the most horizontal technologies nowadays. It's not only about resilience or defence and security, it's about well-working health systems, because there's a lot of MedTech now in hospitals.

I guess the approach of more B2B meetings could be the best answer now for our ecosystems to know more about each other, because there's always some barriers when there's a lack of knowledge. We can offer a lot, and companies from India can offer a lot.

In India, Bengaluru, for instance, has been one of the major hubs. Do you think that some day, you could have a city-to-city sort of collaboration between Bengaluru and Vilnius?

Edvinas Grikšas

Actually, we have quite a lot of examples here in Lithuania, when there's cooperation, not between countries, but between municipalities, between cities. With inter-municipalities cooperation, there's always a more detailed approach and a different level of cooperation, which can be very useful to go into national and bilateral cooperation. So I see this as a really positive example. So I guess Vilnius and other Lithuanian cities are very open for cooperation between other cities, especially from India.

How does Lithuania view the strategic importance of the proposed India-EU free trade agreement?

There's a lot of work in this also to develop our bilateral trade. How much is the bilateral trade between the two countries? It's not huge, actually. India is the 41st country, I guess, in our overall trade.

But there's a lot of potential. Let's take an example. In Lithuania, we have top priority markets for exports and innovation.

And India, of course, is among the priorities for us. And during my visit to India, we had a lot of discussions on how we should increase bilateral trade, of course, with the help of our embassy, our colleagues, and with initiatives from our side and from India's side.

What role can your country play as a gateway to the Baltics?

Lithuania can and is playing a great role, not only as a gateway to the Baltics or northern countries, but into the EU market as well, because we have one of the best environments for businesses to grow, for investors to invest.

So, you know, we have this wide value-proposition from Lithuania for investors, startups, and talents to come to Lithuania. And by coming to Lithuania, you also enter the European market.

Coffee Day Global back in profit in FY26

NEW DELHI, PTI

Coffee Day Global Ltd, the operator of popular cafe chain Café Coffee Day, reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 14 crore in FY26, while its revenue from operations grew 5.7% to Rs 1,094 crore. The company's operating profit or EBITDA rose 27% to Rs 198 crore in FY26, according to an exchange filing by its parent entity, Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL).

In FY25, Coffee Day Global had reported a net revenue of Rs 1,034.63 crore and a loss after tax of Rs 175.92 crore. Coffee Day Global's Average Sales Per Day (ASPD) witnessed a marginal increase to Rs 21,101 in the financial year ended March 31, 2026, compared with Rs 21,016 in FY25.

However, the number of Café Coffee Day outlets declined to 424 at the end of FY26 from 435 a year earlier. Its Same Store Sales Growth (SSSG) stood at negative 1.72% during the fiscal. On the other hand, the company's vending machine business expanded, with the count rising to 55,802 by the end of the fourth quarter of FY26, as against 54,100 in the corresponding period a year ago. Its parent company, Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd, also reported a PAT of Rs 210.14 crore in FY26, compared with a loss of Rs 143.20 crore in the previous fiscal. Revenue from operations of CDEL increased 2.55% to Rs 1,154.40 crore in FY26.

FPI outflow reaches Rs 2.25L cr in 2026

NEW DELHI, PTI: Foreign investors continued to pare their exposure to Indian equities, withdrawing Rs 32,963 crore in May due to weak earnings growth, rupee depreciation and more attractive opportunities in other markets.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from the equity market has reached Rs 2.25 lakh crore in 2026, which is higher than the Rs 1.66 lakh crore pulled out during the entire 2025, according to data with the NSDL. FPIs were net sellers in all months of 2026, except February. They withdrew Rs 35,962 crore in January, before turning net buyers in February, when they invested Rs 22,615 crore, the highest monthly inflow in 17 months.

JUNE MPC MEET

RBI likely to hold policy rates, despite looming inflationary pressure

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep key policy interest rates unchanged in its second monetary policy review of the current financial year, despite mounting inflationary pressure amid the West Asia crisis and potentially weak monsoon.

The three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the rate-setting panel of India's central bank, is scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

According to analysts, the RBI is likely to maintain status quo on the policy interest rates for the third time in a row this year, after hiking it cumulatively by 125 basis points in 2025.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra is scheduled to announce the MPC's decisions on interest rates and economic outlook on June 5. Repo rate, the interest at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks for their short-term needs, remains steady at 5.25% since December 2025.

SBI Research said in a note that the RBI would maintain status quo on policy rates against a volatile backdrop.

However, it suggested that the central bank to use "operation twist" tool to address market microstructure and support the rupee, which has depreciated sharply against most global currencies.

Operation twist refers to an unconventional monetary policy adopted by several central banks across the world to control interest rates, inflation, and investments. The RBI used this policy in 2019 and 2020 to revive the continuing economic slowdown. Under this operation, the RBI had twisted the yield of government securities to bring liquidity into the markets.

"Despite strong macro fundamentals, the rupee is depreciating much more vis-à-vis other currencies. Therefore, there is a need for augmented intervention by the RBI," SBI Research said.

The RBI could use measures like operation twist, where short-term rates could rise at the expense of long-term rates. For instance, the Bank of Indonesia has recently hiked the rates even though it is an inflation targeting regime just to defend Indonesian Rupiah, it said.

SBI Research noted that India's forex reserves are optimally sufficient to combat the unidirectional slide of rupee. "While aiming to curb excess/undesired volatility concomitantly as the prime aim, there is a clear felt need for a comprehensive BOP package," it added.

India's forex reserves fell by $7.51 billion to $681.38 billion for the week ended May 22, as per the latest data released by the RBI. It has declined cumulatively by $47 billion since February 27, a day before the outbreak of the Iran war.

Significant outflow of foreign money from the Indian markets has added to the pressure on the rupee. Net equity outflow from the Indian equities amounts to $22.7 billion since the onset of the war.

"Poor earnings growth in India, much superior earnings growth in countries like the US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, and the strong AI-related trade in these countries, particularly in South Korea and Taiwan, contributed significantly to the FPI-selling in India and moving the money to the above mentioned markets," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

Rupee, which was about 90 to the dollar at the beginning of this year, steadily depreciated to 96.96, recently.

According to SBI Research, India's GDP growth is likely to be closer to 7.2% in the January-March 2026 quarter. For the full FY2025-26, the growth is pegged at 7.5%. It is likely to slow to 6.6% in the current fiscal.

In its Monthly Economic Review report released on Saturday, the Union Finance Ministry underlined the need for policy vigilance amid the uncertain global economic environment.

"The confluence of elevated global energy prices, a depreciating rupee, rising upstream cost pressures and the prospect of a below-normal monsoon calls for sustained policy vigilance," it said.

"Navigating FY27 will require agility across monetary, fiscal and structural dimensions to safeguard growth momentum and keep inflation durably anchored, even as the global environment remains uncertain," the report noted.

Should you invest in electronic gold receipts?

Recently, a new gold product—the Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR)—has been generating interest as a way to trade gold digitally, while also offering investors the ability to convert physical gold into a tradable electronic form. However, the process is really not as straightforward as depositing gold and immediately beginning to trade it on an exchange.

Understanding EGRs

EGRs are exchange-traded securities linked to standardised physical gold of specific purity and mass. Each EGR is backed by 100% physical gold. Under the EGR framework, physical gold is stored with a Vault Manager (VM), which issues EGRs against the deposited gold after it has undergone the required purity testing. These EGRs are listed and traded on stock exchanges. Investors can buy and sell them through a trading and demat account, similar to trading stocks or ETFs. EGRs can be converted into physical gold. The quantity of gold received on redemption corresponds to the unit represented by the EGR.

Converting jewellery into EGR

While some are hailing EGR as an alternative to bank lockers, given the lower costs and no tax on conversion, it is not so easy. The gold that can be deposited needs to meet certain standards - the gold is refined by domestic refineries, which are registered with BIS and accredited with stock exchanges. The gold coming from these refineries should confirm to India Good Delivery Standard for creation of EGR. The purity levels are 999 and 995 - 999 implies 99.9% purity and 995 implies 99.5% purity.

Most gold jewellery in India is made of 22K (91.6% purity) or 18K (75% purity) gold. Since EGRs can only be issued against gold meeting the prescribed purity standards of 995 (99.5%) or 999 (99.9%), jewellery must first be melted and refined into gold bars of the requisite purity before it can be deposited and converted into EGRs.

MRIN AGARWAL
FINANCIAL EDUCATOR, FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF FINSAFE INDIA PVT. LTD

Moreover, converting EGRs back into physical gold (only in form of bars) is a cumbersome process, involving redemption requests, coordination with the vault manager and collection of the physical gold.

Investors need to decide whether they are willing to melt their jewellery, incur refining and conversion costs and not receive the same ornaments back in their original form.

Costs

EGR costs include vault storage charges, depository and brokerage charges, 3% GST and withdrawal costs in case of physical gold. Unlike Gold ETFs which have an expense ratio of 0.6%, EGRs do not have a single bundled cost.

Furthur, being a new product, the liquidity in EGRs is currently limited. In such cases, EGRs may trade above the underlying gold price when purchased and below it when sold, thus eroding returns.

Ultimately, the practical appeal of EGRs will depend on factors such as transaction costs, liquidity, bid-ask spreads and the ease with which investors can buy, sell, and redeem them. While the product introduces an innovative link between physical and digital gold ownership, its advantages over existing gold investment avenues remain limited at present. For investors already using gold ETFs or gold mutual funds, EGRs do not currently offer a compelling reason to switch, especially given the established track record, liquidity, and convenience of these alternatives.

India's electric moment, still in motion

E-car market draws intense competition, but long-term growth to sail on ecosystem readiness besides products

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Electric vehicles are no longer a novelty in India. Global and homegrown manufacturers are expanding offerings, while a young, increasingly affluent and tech-savvy consumer base continues to drive adoption. Yet industry stakeholders say the EV transition remains in its early stages, with significant untapped potential still to be unlocked.

India's modern EV journey began with the REVAi, launched in 2001 by Reva Electric Car Company in Bengaluru. A small city runabout, it became one of the world's earliest commercially available EVs and marked India's first serious experiment with electric mobility. From there, the segment has evolved into a far-larger ecosystem, shaped by global entrants and domestic automakers alike.

According to the Vahan portal, electric passenger vehicle (cars/SUVs) registrations stood at 193,633 in FY26. Overall EV registrations reached 2.55 million units, a 25% increase over 2.04 million registered in FY25. EVs accounted for 8.6% of total vehicle registrations, while electric car penetration ranged 4-6%, depending on the month.

FADA Research data showed 23,506 electric car sales in April, giving the segment a 5.8% share in India's passenger vehicle market.

"The Vahan data has clearly shown that EV penetration in the PV space has grown from 0.5% in FY22 to 3.4% in FY26, in a fast-growing overall PV market at 11% CAGR," says Rajat Mahajan, Partner and Automotive Sector Leader at Deloitte. In absolute terms, there were 1.9 lakh electric PV registrations in FY26, nearly twice FY25's 1.07 lakh.

The electric car market today spans global and domestic players, including BYD, VinFast, Tesla, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Mahindra, and Maruti Suzuki. The widening product pipeline across segments and price-points has helped broaden early adoption beyond niche buyers.

VinFast has positioned India as a key pillar of its global expansion strategy with its manufacturing facility in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. The plant is the Vietnamese automaker's first outside Vietnam and anchors its long-term commitment to the Indian market.

"India remains one of the most-significant EV growth opportunities globally, not just because of scale, but because the market is moving from early adoption to ecosystem-led expansion," says Tapan Ghosh, CEO of VinFast India.

"...we are investing with a long-term perspective. Product technology matters, but equally important are trust, after-sales support, charging accessibility, resale confidence, and overall cost of ownership," he adds.

The company is rapidly building its India footprint, targeting 75 dealerships by year-end, while expanding service and charging partnerships. Its roadmap also includes entry into electric two-wheelers and buses, signalling a broader mobility play beyond passenger cars.

Despite rising adoption, a gap persists between consumer intent and actual purchases. "Nearly 10% of respondents intend to purchase an EV as their next vehicle, but EV penetration in overall PV registration is 3.4% in FY26, as per Vahan," reiterates Mahajan, referring to the Deloitte Global Consumer Study (GACS) 2026.

"This gap does not exist in markets like China and the US, where preference and sales are more aligned," he adds. "As the ecosystem matures, India will see faster conversion from intent to purchase."

Deloitte's Wheelwatch tracker shows Delhi leading EV adoption, with registrations rising 2.7x year-on-year and penetration reaching 8.3% in FY26. Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu drove bulk volumes, while Kerala and Karnataka recorded the highest penetration rates.

Tesla adds fresh momentum

Tesla's entry has added fresh momentum to the premium EV segment. The company recently introduced the 2026 Model Y Premium rear-wheel drive at Rs 50.89 lakh, soon after the six-seater Model YL at Rs 61.99 lakh.

Tesla entered India last year with the Model Y priced at Rs 59.89 lakh. "Tesla will keep investing in India to create a seamless EV experience, with more retail coverage, after-sales services and charging infrastructure," Tesla Senior Director Isabel Fan said in a statement, as quoted in the media. Globally, the Tesla Model Y has remained the best-selling car across all powertrains since 2023, with around 1.2 million units sold annually.

Policy support continues to anchor India's EV transition. Lower GST on EVs, the PM E-DRIVE scheme, and production-linked incentives have strengthened the industry's base. However, gaps remain in charging infrastructure beyond metros and in reducing dependence on imported battery components, largely sourced from China.

Foreign EV-makers can access reduced import duties of 15% (versus 110%), if they invest Rs 4,150 crore and set up local manufacturing within three years.

Poonam Upadhyay, Director, Crisil Ratings, says India remains a structurally-attractive, but demanding EV market. "The volume opportunity is large and adoption is still at an early stage. Price sensitivity is sharper than almost any other major market, while domestic players have built strong scale and service networks," she adds.

"A global product at a global price works only in the luxury segment. Sustainable volume requires India-focused products," she mentions.

She notes that competition will increasingly shift toward software, range, charging speed, and cost efficiency. "The player that succeeds in the sub-Rs 15 lakh segment, whether domestic or foreign, will shape the market's next phase."

Industry insiders note that while India remains highly price-sensitive, consumer priorities are evolving. Product quality, performance, and features now rank higher in purchase decisions than price. Mahajan adds that price sensitivity has fallen to sixth position, behind ownership experience and brand image.

"Beyond the vehicle, the ecosystem comprising charging infrastructure, service touchpoints, roadside assistance, and battery recycling needs to be visible," he says.

Policy experts also stress that while incentives have helped kickstart adoption, the next phase will depend on infrastructure depth and supply-chain resilience. "Until that gap narrows, India's EV ambition carries a structural dependency on China for critical components," says Upadhyay.

At the same time, India's low base underscores the scale of opportunity ahead. The next phase of growth will be defined not just by who sells EVs, but by who builds the ecosystem that makes EV ownership effortless.

CHARGE & RANGE

India's electric vehicle market continues to expand steadily, led by rising registrations, though passenger car electrification remains at an early stage.

- EV registrations cross **2.55 million** in FY26
- Passenger EVs at **1.93 lakh** units
- EV share at **8.6%** of total registrations
- EV penetration (passenger vehicles) at **3.4%**
- Passenger EV penetration remains low, but rising
- Electric two- and three-wheelers dominate volumes
- Delhi leads state-level adoption

Global/Imported EV brands
Tesla, BYD, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Volvo Cars, Jaguar Land Rover, Porsche

Indian OEMs
- Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles
- Mahindra & Mahindra
- JSW MG Motor India
- Maruti Suzuki India
- Hyundai Motor India
- Kia India

New/emerging brands
- VinFast
- Citroen

Key Challenges
- Limited charging infrastructure outside metros
- High dependence on imported components
- Price sensitivity and financing gaps

India stands out not just because of its scale and long-term EV growth potential, but also because of its role in our broader expansion strategy across Asia and other emerging markets.
Tapan Ghosh, CEO, VinFast India

(**Source:** VAHAN, Deloitte, Crisil, and Industry data)

WEEK AHEAD

Markets likely to remain range-bound

While global cues are turning supportive, the domestic outlook warrants some caution

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

Benchmark indices are likely to remain range-bound this week, while select midcap and smallcap stocks could outperform, supported by healthy earnings and a strong sectoral outlook. Market sentiment has improved following the announcement of a 60-day ceasefire extension between the US and Iran, which has eased geopolitical concerns and pushed Brent crude down to $91 per barrel, a decline of nearly 17% from its recent peak. The easing in crude prices has also supported the Indian rupee, which has strengthened by 1.8% from its record low of Rs 96.84/USD to the Rs 95/USD, providing relief on inflation and external balance concerns.

Key events this week
- India and US Manufacturing PMI data
- India's April IIP
- RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting

While global cues are turning supportive, the domestic outlook warrants some caution, with the IMD forecasting a below-normal monsoon and strengthening El Niño conditions, which could weigh on agricultural output and rural demand. Going forward, the sustainability of the market recovery will depend on continued progress in geopolitical negotiations, stability in crude oil prices and the trajectory of foreign fund flows. Key events to watch this week include India and US Manufacturing PMI data, India's April IIP release and the RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting scheduled during June 3–5.

Last week, equity markets remained largely range-bound with a mildly negative bias. The Nifty50 declined 0.7%, while broader markets outperformed, with the Nifty Midcap100 gaining 0.5% and the Nifty Smallcap100 advancing 1.0%, reflecting continued stock-specific buying and healthier participation beyond large caps. Sectorally, performance remained mixed. Nifty Energy (+1.6%), was among the top gainers last week, aided by easing crude oil prices and strong momentum in power-related stocks. Auto (+1.2%), Metal (+1.3%), IT (+0.6%) and Bank (+0.3%) also ended higher, supported by healthy demand trends, firm global commodity prices, currency-related tailwinds for exporters and selective buying in financials. On the downside, Nifty FMCG (-1.7%) was the worst performer amid concerns over rural demand and rising input-cost pressures, while Nifty Pharma (-0.9%) witnessed profit booking after recent outperformance despite maintaining a favourable long-term outlook.

The recent visit of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to India and progress toward a broader India-US trade agreement have improved sentiment for export-oriented sectors such as IT services and pharmaceuticals. In parallel, the Quad's announcement of a $20 billion Critical Minerals Framework represents a strategically important long-term development for India's metals, mining and clean-energy ecosystem. The initiative aims to reduce dependence on China-dominated supply chains across critical minerals, rare earth processing and recycling, creating long-term opportunities for domestic companies exposed to strategic metals and battery-material infrastructure.

Sectorally, defence, power and metals continue to stand out. Defence stocks remain supported by strong order visibility, rising domestic procurement, record defence exports and expectations surrounding India's proposed acquisition of 114 Rafale fighter jets.

Overall, while geopolitical developments and crude oil prices remain key monitorables, the recent easing in energy prices, improving diplomatic engagement and resilient domestic fundamentals have strengthened the near-term market outlook. However, risks from monsoon uncertainty, FII flows and global macro developments will continue to warrant close monitoring.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, MOFSL)

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Astra Microwave (ID: ASTRAMICRO)	BUY	Target: ₹1,580*	**Shaily Engineering** (ID: SHAILY)	BUY	Target: ₹3,404*
Upside +14%**			Upside +14%**		
Last close ₹1,381			Last close ₹2,990		
Hindalco (ID: HINDALCO)	BUY	Target: ₹1,280*	**GNG Electronics** (ID: EBGNG)	BUY	Target: ₹635*
Upside +13%**			Upside +45%**		
Last close ₹1,131			Last close ₹439		

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

FRONTIER TECH

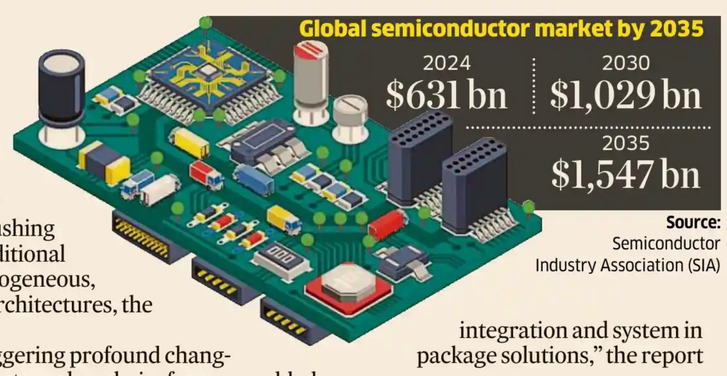
India should build capabilities in design & advanced packaging: NITI Aayog

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Semiconductors are evolving from standalone components into tightly integrated systems that underpin the digital economy. This structural shift presents a timely opportunity for India to leapfrog legacy stages and position itself as a competitive force across critical segments of the global semiconductor supply chain, said NITI Aayog in its report 'Future of India's Semiconductor Industry'.

To realise this opportunity, it said India needs to move beyond being a downstream consumer to becoming a co-creator of frontier technologies that will shape global compute leadership. This calls for building capabilities in design, advanced packaging and strategic manufacturing.

Interestingly, the global semiconductor landscape is entering a transformative phase, and that includes fundamentally different types of chips. The shift toward AI accelerators such as GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), NPUs (Neural Processing Units), and domain specific processors is redefining semiconductor design requirements, pushing the industry beyond traditional logic chips toward heterogeneous, application-optimised architectures, the report stated.



Source: Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)

"This transition is triggering profound changes across the semiconductor value-chain, from the materials used (advanced nodes, compound semiconductors and wide bandgap materials) to manufacturing processes (specialised fabrication, co-design with software and energy efficient nodes) and increasingly to advanced packaging techniques, such as chiplets, 2.5D/3D integration and system in package solutions," the report added.

The semiconductor industry is evolving with a surge in demand for high-performance computing and quantum computing, and the industry is responding as quantum materials and neuromorphic architectures begin to mature, offering glimpses into the next frontier of computing.

Also, innovations in 3D-packaging and chiplets create new pathways to performance.

India can leapfrog as there are potential opportunities, including investing in next-generation quantum and neuromorphic computing architectures for advanced performance, GaN- (Gallium Nitride) and SiC-based (Silicon Carbide) chips for EVs, renewable energy and telecom infrastructure.

With chips becoming the foundation of everything from smartphones to defence systems, countries are racing globally to build semiconductor self-sufficiency. Rising geopolitical tensions, supply-chain vulnerabilities and the strategic importance of chip technology are majorly driving this global push, NITI Aayog said.

For India, the urgency is even greater due to significant import dependence, national security risk, drain on forex and societal upliftment.

India's heavy reliance on imported semiconductor products has led to sizeable forex outflows over the years. India has cumulatively spent almost $150 billion on importing crucial semiconductor products during FY17-25. India's imports of semiconductor products grew at a CAGR of 23% between FY17 and FY25, and if this pace persists, the annual import cost could increase to $240 billion by 2035, the report stated.

It also said there is a necessity to build the talent backbone for the country's semiconductor future. Future skills for the semiconductor industry include 3D stacking, AI/ML algorithms, equipment technicians, and flip-chip technology, among others.

It added that India must prioritise the creation of a large, standardised pipeline of fab-ready technicians, trained specifically for cleanroom operations, equipment handling, contamination control, statistical process control (SPC) and yield management.

One-third of children under 5 are stunted: NFHS

Survey shows sharp fall in exclusive breastfeeding

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Nearly a third of Indian children under five years of age are stunted and underweight, while one in every five kids is "wasted", according to the sixth edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which provides a nationwide picture of children's nutritional status.

Also, exclusive breastfeeding among infants below six months has fallen significantly from 63.7% in NFHS-5 to 55.8% in NFHS-6, which experts say is deeply concerning. This has happened at a time when over 95% of child deliveries are institutional.

While the share of stunted children is over 29% for the country on average, which is an improvement from NFHS-5, the figure is way above the national average in several states.

CAUSE FOR WORRY

- Over 32% of children under five years nationally are underweight
- In south, Telangana has the worst stunting figure at 27%, followed by Karnataka at 26.5%
- Karnataka tops the list of proportionally wasted kids at 18.7% among the five southern states

Stunting — which the World Health Organisation (WHO) defines as "the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation" — among children is the highest in Bihar (35.6%), followed by Gujarat (35.3), Jharkhand (35), and Uttar Pradesh (31.5).

Similarly, over 32% of children under five years nationally are underweight, but state-wise, the figure is as high as over 41% in Jharkhand and nearly 40% in Madhya Pradesh.

Other states with a high number of such kids are Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh.

Stunting, wasting, and underweight among children under five years of age are measures of malnutrition, whose extent the public health survey evaluates every four years.

NFHS-6 was based on surveys conducted in 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts in 2023-24. It was preceded by NFHS-5, carried out between 2019 and 2021.

The number of wasted children — those with weight for height that is two standard deviations below the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards — under five years remains very similar in the two surveys: 19% in NFHS-6 and 19.3% in NFHS-5.

Among the southern states, Telangana has the worst stunting figure (27%), followed by Karnataka (26.5%) and Andhra Pradesh (24.6%).

Karnataka tops the list of proportionally wasted kids (18.7%) among the five southern states. Also, 27.8% of children under five years are underweight in Karnataka and Telangana.

Multiple injuries on Kerala toddler's body sign of abuse

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: As many as 51 injury marks were found on the body of the toddler, Arshid, who died on Friday, the postmortem report showed on Sunday, proving that he was a victim of abuse at home.

The mother of the one-and-a-half-year-old child and her live-in partner have been arrested in connection with the death. The incident took place at Nedumangad on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram.

When Arshid was taken to a hospital on Friday, his mother's live-in partner, Ashkar had said that the child was showing signs of discomfort in sleep. Arshid died later that night.

During investigation and the postmortem, police found multiple fresh and healed injury marks — suspected to be burn marks — on the body. Police suspect that the child was suffering brutal torture by her mother, Akhila, and Ashkar.

Ashkar reportedly confessed that he banged the child's head on the wall for crying and he had inflicted the burn injuries using a lighter.

On Sunday, Ashkar faced the wrath of the locals when he accompanied the police to the house for collecting evidence.

Accused in UP youth murder shot dead in 'encounter'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Asad, the main accused in the murder of Surya Chuahan in Ghaziabad district on Bakra Eid, was shot dead in an 'encounter' with the police early on Sunday morning.

According to sources here, acting on a tip-off, a police team, during a combing operation, intercepted Asad and a friend of his, who were riding a bike, in the Vasundhara area in the town.

On being asked to stop, Asad allegedly opened fire on the police team and was seriously injured in retaliatory firing.

He was rushed to the hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. His friend, however, managed to escape, taking advantage of the darkness.

A pistol was recovered from his possession, police said, adding that Asad, who carried a cash reward of Rs 50,000 on his head, was planning to flee from the city.

A senior police official said in Ghaziabad that Asad and his friends had stabbed Surya Chauhan, a resident of Khoda, over a petty dispute.

Asad, who knew Surya, had called him on the pretext of Eid celebrations and allegedly stabbed him multiple times on Thursday. Chauhan succumbed to his injuries in the hospital a day later. Asad had been absconding after perpetrating the crime.

The killing triggered a massive backlash from the saffron activists, who held demonstrations, demanding stern punishment for the accused youths and also demanding demolition of their houses by a bulldozer.

Police have arrested three people, including Asad's father, in connection with the matter.

Incomplete RTI reply on court fee data: CIC issues notice to law ministry officials

NEW DELHI, PTI: An RTI application seeking nationwide data on judicial court fee collections was transferred to four government departments and public sector entities, but the information provided remained incomplete, prompting the CIC to direct a fresh reply and issue show-cause notices to officials of the law ministry.

The RTI applicant had sought details of annual collections of judicial court fees, including e-court fees, on an all-India basis; the total amount collected since June 1, 2014, with state-wise annual figures; and the utilisation of such collections and related allocations.

According to the Central Information Commission (CIC) order, the application was filed with the Department of Legal Affairs under the Ministry of Law and Justice and was subsequently transferred to the Department of Financial Services (DFS), its Institutional Finance-I (IF-I) Division, Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd (IFCI) and finally the Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd (SHCIL).

During the hearing, the appellant submitted that the information provided on the first two points was incomplete and that no information had been received on the utilisation of court fees, which related to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

It noted that SHCIL had provided replies only on the first two points and had stated that information on the third point was not available with it.

"The CPIO Stockholding Corporation of India Ltd. provided the reply only on points 1 and 2 of the RTI application and said that the information on point 3 is not available," the order said.

Recording SHCIL's submission, the CIC directed the company's CPIO to provide a revised reply on points one and two.

It also issued a show-cause notice to the CPIO of the Department of Legal Affairs, asking why action under Section 20 of the RTI Act should not be initiated for wrongly transferring the entire application to DFS and for remaining absent during the hearing.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

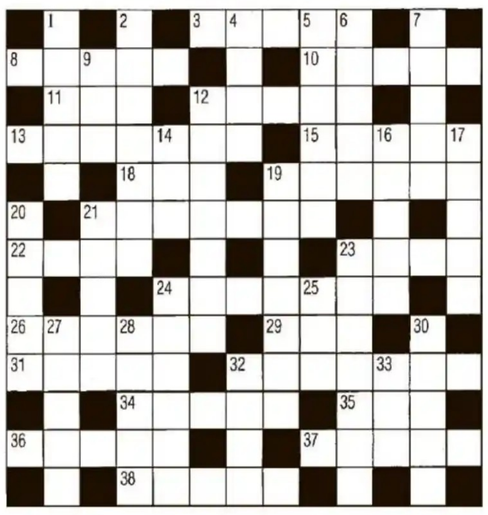
Beetle Bailey

SOMEONE LEFT THE HOSE ON LAST NIGHT. NOW IT'S ICE
YOU GUYS TAKE CARE OF IT
GREG TMORT WALKER
SHOULD WE TELL HIM WE DID IT ON PURPOSE?
NAH

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12428



ACROSS
3 Wide (5)
8 Truncheon (5)
10 Hut (5)
11 Weapon (3)
12 Player's first game (5)
13 Formal discussions (7)
15 Deserve (5)
18 Domestic fuel (3)
19 Make smaller or less (6)
21 Hold, consist of (7)
22 Cereal plant (4)
23 Office note (4)
24 Walks like an infant (7)
26 Not in tune (3-3)
29 Cover (3)
31 Helicopter blade (5)
32 Goes to bed (7)
34 Star sign (5)
35 Popular pet (3)
36 Bowed stringed instrument (5)
37 Christmas show (5)
38 Pleasant smell (5)

DOWN
1 Ring-shaped roll (5)
2 Nine-sided figure (7)
4 Regrets (4)
5 Insight (6)
6 Unfashionable (5)
7 Imitate (5)
9 Container (3)
12 Ruin (7)
14 Shade of brown (3)
16 Governs (5)
17 Male voice (5)
19 Conundrums (7)
20 Thespian (5)
21 Skilled trade (5)
23 Health check (7)
24 Great fear (6)
25 Illuminated (3)
27 Anteroom (5)
28 A marsupial (5)
30 Landing pier (5)
32 Quantity of paper (4)
33 Managed (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Parts of the Far East (5)
8 Flashy perhaps, but maybe of mechanical efficiency (5)
10 Looking back, one finds sweetness in asparagus (5)
11 An exclamation of scorn? (3)
12 The dramatic bits (5)
13 Talk on the phone of an item of property (7)
15 Sharp sort of bill for a bird (5)
18 Organised athletic activity? (3)
19 A handy thing to eat! (6)
21 The senior officer spoils Henry (7)
22 Such a pigeon comes down to earth (4)
23 In favour of quiet support (4)
24 Able to shift the blame, perhaps, about Oscar and Victor (7)
26 The state Reg is in (6)
29 Her aim is awful! (3)
31 Tried to exercise when fatigued (5)
32 In Surrey, it's plenty good! (7)
34 Pipes best bent round a curve (5)
35 Vessel rendering ì34î pointless (3)
36 The spirit of Goole? (5)
37 Here, as at Bognor, a little chap lives (5)
38 Taking only shaky steps can be a nuisance (5)

DOWN
1 Coffee can put a hotheaded in a coma! (5)
2 Show the direction to Ayr, possibly? (7)
4 Part of Montreal associated with Madrid (4)
5 Does every star have such a body? (6)
6 Poles touring the States with a girl (5)
7 No bare-headed bird, it would seem (5)
9 A snake around grandma's neck? (3)
12 Where to stay for pay (7)
14 Jack's mystic art (3)
16 Old country with aviation centre (5)
17 Swindles are obviously not on the level (5)
19 A sham BA going around the islands (7)
20 With love in his heart, jock will move fast (5)
21 Scholarly mother? (5)
23 Soft material used by platers (7)
24 Working part, or a stubborn fellow out to do wrong (6)
25 It's great, partnering Amy in crime! (3)
27 A blow for justice (5)
28 Morning dress? (3-2)
30 Person heard stealin'? (5)
32 He's familiar with a Schubert piece (4)
33 Hold in warm affection (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 2682

ACROSS: 1 Cabbage, 5 Bramble, 9 Miracle, 10 Drought, 11 Abide, 12 Tight-knit, 13 Segregate, 15 Craze, 16 Envoy, 18 Mass media, 21 Hard Times, 24 Arson, 25 Blacken, 26 Orderly, 27 Tetanus, 28 Proceed.

DOWN: 1 Compass, 2 Burning, 3 Archenemy, 4 Eject, 5 By degrees, 6 Adopt, 7 Begonia, 8 Entitle, 14 Armaments, 15 Come and go, 16 Exhibit, 17 Verdant, 19 Deserve, 20 Annoyed, 22 Token, 23 Snoop.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6920 ◆

	4		7	3			9	
	2		8		9			3
					2			
9						7		8
	7						3	
6		1						5
			6					
5			3		8		1	
	8			2	4		6	

hard

4	3	7	2	8	6	9	1	5
6	9	1	4	5	7	3	2	8
5	8	2	3	9	1	4	6	7
3	5	9	1	4	8	2	7	6
2	1	8	7	6	3	5	9	4
7	6	4	5	2	9	8	3	1
1	4	5	9	7	2	6	8	3
9	7	6	8	3	5	1	4	2
8	2	3	6	1	4	7	5	9

SOLUTION TO 6919

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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S1	O1	U1	E1	P3	R1	P3	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 1
S1	S1	A1	O1	S1	L1	L1		RACK 2
O1	O1	E1	L1	N1	Y4	M3	Double Word Score	RACK 3
C3	T1	A1	O1	S1	C3	S1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

Q10	U1	I1	C3	K5	E1	N1	RACK 1 =	116
Z10	A1	P3	P3	I1	N1	G2	RACK 2 =	113
C3	O1	N1	V4	O1	K5	E1	RACK 3 =	98
S1	L1	A1	V4	I1	S1	H4	RACK 4 =	89
							JUDD'S TOTAL	416

PAR SCORE 275-280

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TPYUT

RAHWF

NRAECP

GAEDM

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Today's Guest JUMBLER is GEORGE GANT
creator of BEWARE OF TODDLER
UH... DO YOU STILL NEED ME ON BASS?
CHANK!
11-19
UNABLE TO PERFORM THE PERFECT DRUM SOLO, THE TODDLER ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" "

(Answers Monday)

Saturday's Jumbles: RHYME SOUPY GALLON EMBARK
Answer: When he lost his dentures, he could only snack on — GUMMY BEARS

HITORI-3374

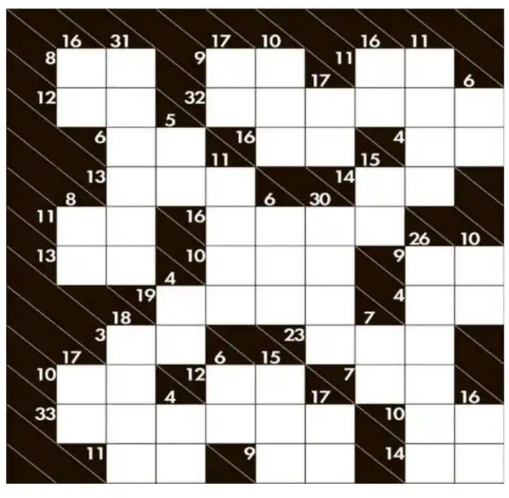
8	5	2	6	4	7	3	1
1	8	3	2	1	1	3	6
2	1	5	8	3	8	1	4
1	2	6	7	5	4	1	3
4	7	8	1	1	6	5	6
2	3	1	3	6	2	1	7
5	7	4	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	7	1	1	1	2	1

SOLUTION TO 3373

7	■	6	2	■	5	1	■
8	4	■	1	3	■	6	5
4	8	7	■	5	2	■	3
3	■	1	8	4	■	2	6
■	1	8	6	■	3	■	7
2	7	■	3	6	1	5	8
5	■	3	4	7	6	8	2
■	5	4	■	8	■	7	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3374



SOLUTION TO 3373

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3933

■					6	3		■
	■	1			3	6	2	
		■				4		
			■	7	5			
1	5			■	2	9		
			6		4			
3	8	■				■		9
	■					■		
■						5		1

SOLUTION TO 3932

4	2	3	6	1	9	8	7	5
7	5	8	2	3	4	6	9	1
9	6	1	5	7	8	3	4	2
6	8	4	3	9	1	5	2	7
2	3	9	7	6	5	4	1	8
5	1	7	4	8	2	9	6	3
1	9	2	8	4	3	7	5	6
3	7	5	9	2	6	1	8	4
8	4	6	1	5	7	2	3	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

IN BRIEF

Abhay, Chotrani advance

▸ India's Abhay Singh and Veer Chotrani advanced to the second round at the British Open squash even as Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh bowed out of the PSA Diamond event, reports PTI from Birmingham.

World No. 24 Abhay defeated Colombia's Matias Knudsen 11-8, 11-5, 11-4, while world No. 44 Chotrani beat Pakistan's world No. 29 Noor Zaman 11-8, 12-14, 11-6, 11-7.

Tandon retired against Frenchman Auguste Dussourd with the scoreboard reading 14-12, 4-7, while world No. 21 Anahat went down to Nardine Garas, the Egyptian world No. 36 winning 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9.

India U-18 beat Korea 3-1

▸ The Indian women's hockey team registered a convincing 3-1 victory over Korea in their second Pool A match of the U18 Asia Cup on Sunday, reports PTI from Kakamigahara, Japan.

Riding on goals from Nousheen Naz, Shruti Kumari and Kiran Ekka, India maintained their winning momentum in the tournament following their opening-day triumph over Malaysia. Korea attempted a comeback after the break and reduced the deficit in the third quarter when Gyeongmin Ryu scored in the 41st minute.

Result: India: 3 (Nousheen Naz 4th, Shruti Kumar 21st, Kiran Ekka 43rd) bt Korea: 1 (Gyeongmin Ryu 41st).

Ruturaj in India A squad

▸ Ruturaj Gaikwad replaced injured Riyan Parag in the India A squad for the upcoming tri-nation one-day series in Sri Lanka from June 9, reports DHNS.

Parag, who was the vice-captain of the team, was ruled out due to a hamstring injury and will undergo rehabilitation at the BCCI's CoE in Bengaluru. Gaikwad was also named the vice captain of the team for the series which also features Afghanistan A.

Kamali wins 2 surfing titles

MANGALURU, PTI: Tamil Nadu's talented teenager Kamali Moorthy, who secured India's surfing quota for the upcoming Asian Games, completed a remarkable double by winning both the Women's Open and Surfing Juniors U-18 Girls titles at the finals of the seventh Indian Open of Surfing here on Sunday.

Another TN surfer Kishore Kumar was crowned champion in the Men's Open category.

Ranjith stars in YDFC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ranjith Selvaraj netted a brace as Young Dynamos FC trounced Bangalore Kickers FC 6-1 in a Group 6 encounter of the BDFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Sunday.

Results: Group 6: Young Dynamos FC: 6 (Ajmal Saiyath Mustafa 11th, Ranjith Selvaraj 34th, 60th, Velmurugan 40th, N Mohanraj 51st, P Kanan 58th) bt Bangalore Kickers FC: 1 (Zicco Rabhi 22nd); Shining Star FC: 1 (Kishan HS 2nd) bt Freedom FC: 0; J Sports FC: 2 (J Avah Liio 7th, 29th) bt Bangalore Muslims FC: 1 (Mohammed Usman 18th).

Group 8: Rangers FC: 1 (Shawn Sebastian 26th) bt RBI FC: 0; Royals FC: 5 (Subvash N 14th, 49th, Srikanth N 21st, Vasu 33rd, Rajashekar 35th).

◆ ON TV ◆

TENNIS

French Open: Fourth Round (**2:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

SAFF Women's C'ship: Maldives vs India (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

BADMINTON SINGAPORE OPEN

Satwik-Chirag end title drought

World No. 4 Indian pair rallies to beat Indonesia's Alfian & Fikri 18-21, 21-17, 21-16

SINGAPORE, PTI

Former world No. 1 pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden Singapore Open title, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in the men's doubles final of the BWF Super 750 tournament here on Sunday.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champions produced a gritty comeback to secure their first title in two years and their ninth career World Tour crown, besides claiming a third Super 750 title with a tense 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 win in one hour 13 minutes.

The Indian pair pocketted approximately Rs 70 lakh for their effort.

The victory was particularly significant for the world No. 4 duo, who became the first Indians to win the doubles title at the Singapore Open.

Satwik and Chirag had last lifted a trophy at the Thailand Open in 2024. Since then, they had reached four finals but finished runners-up on each occasion before finally breaking the drought in Singapore.

The Indians had entered the final trailing 1-2 in their head-to-head record against the Indonesian pair, with their most recent defeat coming in the Malaysia Open quarterfinals in January.

After dropping a closely-fought opening game, Satwik and Chirag raised their intensity and dominated the longer rallies to turn the contest around against the world No. 3 Indonesians.

Chirag Shetty (behind) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy won their first title in two years at the Singapore Open on Sunday. BWF

The triumph capped an impressive week for the Indian pair, who had stunned reigning world champions and top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of South Korea in the semifinals.

As the winning point was sealed, Chirag lay flat on the court in celebration. Satwik followed it up with a baby-themed celebration, while an ecstatic Chirag let out a loud roar before leaping onto his partner.

The duo later danced on court as they savoured a long-awaited return to the top step of the podium.

The gruelling final saw the Indians recover from a slow start to gradually go on to impose themselves on their opponents.

Satwik and Chirag looked rusty in the opening game, falling 2-5 behind before Satwik's powerful smashes helped them claw back to 5-5. The contest remained neck-and-neck, with the Indians holding a slender 11-9 advantage at the mid-game interval. However, the momentum shifted after the break as Alfian and Fikri won three straight points to move ahead.

The Indonesians edged in front at 15-14 and despite the Indians fighting back to level at 16-16, 17-17 and later 18-18 after a gruelling rally, a couple of errors at crucial moments proved costly. The Indonesian pair seized the initiative and closed out the game in 21 minutes.

The Indian pair responded with positive intent in the second game, showing far greater aggression from the outset. They raced to a 2-0 lead and carried an 11-8 advantage into the interval. A six-point burst after the restart stretched their lead to 14-8 and put the Indonesians under pressure.

Kostyuk knocks out Swiatek

Ukrainian posts 7-5, 6-1 win over 4-time champion

PARIS, AFP

Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek exited Roland Garros as the top seeds continued to fall at the start of the second week. The Polish third seed endured a miserable 25th birthday as she went down 7-5, 6-1 to Madrid Open winner Marta Kostyuk.

Since winning Roland Garros in her second appearance at the tournament in 2020, Swiatek had never gone more than two years without hoisting aloft the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen, but after Aryna Sabalenka ended her bid to win a fourth consecutive French Open in the semifinals last year, she has lost her unbeatable status on clay.

After breaking Kostyuk in the first set to edge 4-3 ahead, Swiatek's serve totally deserted her and she failed to hold again as the Ukrainian hit back to claim the opener and then raced through the second frame.

Elina Svitolina next stands between her compatriot and the last four after she fought back to beat Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Cirstea, Zverev win

Sorana Cirstea continued her remarkable renaissance during her farewell season on tour as the 36-year-old bested Chinese world No. 148 Wang Xiyu 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Rising Spanish star Rafael Jodar has been no stranger to lengthy matches in his debut Roland Garros campaign but the 19-year-old's five-set win over fellow countryman Pablo Carreno Busta was even longer drawn out than it would otherwise have been as the heatwave that defined the first week subsided to rain, which caused brief delays in play.

Alexander Zverev kept alive his hopes of claiming a first Grand Slam title as he beat Dutch lucky loser Jesper de Jong in straight sets.

The 29-year-old eased into the quarterfinals with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 6-1 win over his 106th-ranked opponent.

Results: Fourth round (prefix denotes seeding): Men: 27-Rafael Jodar (Esp) bt Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. 2-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Jesper de Jong (Ned) 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 6-1. **Women:** 7-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt 11-Belinda Bencic (Sui) 4-6, 6-4, 6-0; 15-Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 3-Iga Swiatek (Pol) 7-5, 6-1; 18-Sorana Cirstea (Rom) bt Wang Xiyu (Chn) 6-3, 7-6 (4). 8-Mirra Andreeva (Rus) bt Jil Teichmann (Sui) 6-3, 6-2.

Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk returns during her fourth round win against Poland's Iga Swiatek at the French Open in Paris on Sunday. REUTERS

Indian 4x400m relay team sets new national record

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian 4x400m relay team, which featured Karnataka's Sayed Sabeer, took bronze medal while shattering the national record in the men's final of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong on Sunday.

The quartet—also included Piyush Raj, Ranjith Kumar S and Mohammed Ashfaq—clocked 3:05.54 seconds to finish behind gold medallists China (3:04.88) and Qatar (3:05.06) in one of the fastest Asian U-20 finals ever with five teams going past the previous meet record (including Sri Lanka and Thailand) of 3:07.38.

India won three gold medals on the final day of the event, including the 4x400m women's relay team. Neeru Pathak-anchored quartet, also featuring Bhumika Nehate, Tahura Khatun and Sehnoor Bawa, won the final with more than five seconds gap for a new meet record at 3:38.07.

In the individual events, runners Mogali Venkatraman Reddy (1:48.27) and Muskan (16:53.08) won the men's 800m and women's 5000m finals, respectively. Both Mogali and Muskan dominated their respective events, finishing head and shoulders above their closest opponents.

Indian men's 4x400m relay team set the new national record to claim the bronze medal in the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong on Sunday.

Meanwhile, discus thrower Nischay (60.10m) claimed silver in a close battle with Uzbekistan's Maxim Sazhnev (60.45) in the men's final.

The women's 4x100m relay team—Kajal Vaja, Bhavana G, Aarti, Nipam—also bagged silver with a combined effort of 45.05 while China flew to the finish line at 44.78.

India finished the event with 10 gold medals to equal their best-ever second place on the medal table behind champions China (14 gold).

India previously finished second at the competition in 1992 and 1996 with 10 gold each.

Results (Only events with Indian medals): Men: 800m: Mogali V Reddy 1:48.27, 1, Nethsara Dineth (SL) 1:49.22, 2; Atsuki Watanabe (Jpn) 1:49.29, 3.

4x400m relay: China 3:04.88, 1; Qatar 3:05.06, 2; India (Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar S, Mohammed Ashfaq) 3:05.54, 3.

Discus throw: Maxim Sazhnev (Uzb) 60.45 1; Nischay (Ind) 60.10, 2; Hamad Al-Sultan (Qat) 59.47, 3.

Women: 5000m: Muskan (Ind) 16:53.08, 1; Kim Hyojoo (Kor) 17:18.66, 2; Sadafbonu Nusratilloeva (Uzb) 18:08.17, 3.

4x100m relay: China 44.78, 1; India (Kajal Vaja, Bhavana G, Aarti, Nipam) 45.05, 2; Chinese Taipei 45.61, 3.

4x400m relay: India (Bhumika Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Sehnoor Bawa, Neeru Pathak) 3:38.07, 1; Kazakhstan 3:43.63, 2; Hong Kong 3:49.94, 3.

Aman, Sujeet, Deepak qualify for Asian Games

BENGALURU, DHNS: Paris Olympics medallist Aman Sehrawat and former World Championships runner-up Deepak Punia headline India's seven-member men's freestyle squad for the Asian Games following the Wrestling Federation of India trials in Lucknow on Sunday.

Unlike the women's trials the other day in New Delhi, the men's trials saw no major upset as all big names made it through. Aman qualified in his forte 57kg category by comfortably defeating Rahul by technical superiority (11-1) in the category's final.

Heavyweight wrestler Deepak, who missed out on the Tokyo Olympics bronze by a whisker, defeated Jointy Kumar 5-0 in the 97kg final.

Asian champion Sujeet Kalkal, who has made the 65kg category his own since Bajrang Punia's departure, confirmed his Asiad ticket with a narrow 2-0 victory over Vishal in the 65kg category.

Among other categories, Sagar Jaglan defeated Jaideep 8-6 in the 74kg final while Rajat Rahul won the 125kg trials by defeating Dinesh 10-6 to complete the men's freestyle squad.

Men's freestyle squad: 57 kg: Aman Sehrawat, **65 kg:** Sujeet Kalkal, **74 kg:** Sagar Jaglan, **86kg:** Mukul, **97 kg:** Deepak Punia, **125 kg:** Rajat Rahul.

Para runner shot dead days after winning gold in B'luru

NEW DELHI, PTI: A para-athlete has been arrested for allegedly shooting dead national-level para-athlete and gold medallist Chirag Tyagi (**in pic**), with police suspecting it to be a revenge killing linked to a complaint over document verification.

The 24-year-old Tyagi, a resident of Basantpur Sethli village in Muradnagar, was found dead near Sai Upvan in Ghaziabad on Saturday.

Tyagi recently bagged two gold medals at the recently-concluded Indian Open Para Athletics International Championships, winning both the 1500m and 400m events in the T12 category, presenting a strong case for his Asian Para Games selection.

At the time of the incident, Chirag was returning home after the event. The performances had qualified him for the upcoming Asian Para Games and was subject to confirmation by the selection committee of Paralympic Committee of India.

According to his family, he had recently returned from a training camp in Pune and reached Delhi on May 29.

Family members said they last spoke to him on Saturday morning when he informed that he would reach home by the afternoon. His mobile phone subsequently became unreachable before police informed the family about the incident.

DCP, City, Dhawal Jaiswal said on Sunday that preliminary examination of the body and evidence collected from the spot suggested that Tyagi had been shot dead.

During the investigation, police detained one Yash Khatik on Saturday evening, who is also a para-athlete and had previously trained with Tyagi.

According to Jaiswal, the probe revealed that Tyagi had lodged a complaint against Khatik during a document verification process. Following the complaint, Khatik's eligibility was cancelled, leading to resentment and a desire for revenge, the officer said.

During questioning, the accused allegedly confessed to shooting Tyagi with a pistol, police said.

Police teams have been deployed to recover the weapon used in the crime, while other evidence is also being collected, officials said.

Further legal proceedings are underway and all aspects of the case are being investigated, police said.

D'Artagnan wins feature event

BENGALURU RESULTS

Pesi Shroff-trained D'Artagnan, ridden by Vivek G, won the Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million, the feature event of the races run over a distance of 1400 meters on Sunday.

1. The Endorsement Plate - 1600M: Bartolino (Kaviya V, Francis Arun Kumar and Javeed Ghatala) Pavan 1, Digital Empress (A Sandesh) 2, Ashwa New York (Suraj Narredu) 3, Asterion (Antony Raj) 4. WB: 3/4, 3/4, 3/4. T: 1:44.36. Tote: Rs 193 (w) 26, 13 p; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 43; Fc: Rs 398; Q: Rs 146; Tri: Rs 446 & 150; Exp: Rs 1101 & 530. TB: I Ghatala. Fav: Ashwa New York.

2. The Aureole Time Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Mericle Beauty (Amarjeet Singh Naula) Kiran Rai 1, Khazana (Aleemuddin) 2, Mega Success (Jagadeesh) 3, Meghann (Laxman Singh) 4. TB: 3-3/4, 2-1/4, 3/4. T: 1:18.59. Tote: Rs 29 (w) 14, 11, 23 p; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 47; Fc: Rs 58; Q: Rs 24; Tri: Rs 303 & 226; Exp: Rs 3284 & 1809. TB: Narayana Gowda. Fav: Khazana.

3. The World No Tobacco Day Plate (Div I) - 1300M: Night Raider (Arun Alagappan) Pavan 1, Steely Challenge (Sai Kiran) 2, Vibrant Queen (Alex Rozario) 3, Honeypot (Rajesh Kumar) 4. WB: 2-3/4, 1, 9-3/4. T: 1:22.44. Tote: Rs 41 (w) 16, 14, 10 p; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 31; Fc: Rs 200; Q: Rs 95; Tri: Rs 479 & 220; Exp: Rs 7097 & 2607. TB: I Ghatala. Fav: Vibrant Queen.

4. The SG Madhukar Memorial Trophy 1400M: Alfonsine (P Arun Kumar) Ashhad Asbar 1, Zayyan (Yash Narredu) 2, Sunshine (Suraj Narredu) 3, Invincible (Kiran Rai) 4. WB: 8, 2, 1 3/4. T: 1:28.35. Tote: Rs 36 (w) 13, 10, 15 p; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 36; Fc: Rs 78; Q: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 151 & 87; Exp: Rs 5480 & 5167. TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Zayyan.

5. The Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million 1400M: D 'Artagnan (Vijay Shirke, Jay V Shirke, Farouq Rattonsey, MH Deboo, Luthria and Daisy, Darashaw Mehta) Vivek G 1, Siege Storm (Akshay Kumar) 2, Buckingham (Antony Raj) 3, Shining Ways (Suraj Narredu) 4. WB: 6-3/4, 3-3/4, 3-3/4. T: 1:27.84. Tote: Rs 28 (w) 14, 12 p; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 30; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 69 & 30; Exp: Rs 202 & 129. TB: P Shroff. Fav: Buckingham.

6. The Aureole Time Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Steffen (P Arun Kumar) S Sachin 1, Dasadyu (Bhawani Singh) 2, Carter (Md Talib) 3, Agrima. WB: 1-1/4, 2-3/4, 1. T: 1:17.58. Tote: Rs 30 (w) 12, 18, 25 p; Shp: Rs 48; Thp: Rs 66; Fc: Rs 300; Q: Rs 151; Tri: Rs 3018 & 1194; Exp: Rs 4771 & 2272. TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Steffen.

7. The World No Tobacco Day Plate (Div I) - 1300M: Valiant Stream (Manjri Hors Breeders, D T Racing Breeding) Akshay Kumar 1, Darrington (Pavan) 2, Agrador (A Sandesh) 3, Oxytocin (Kiran Rai) 4. WB: 4-3/4, Shd, 1. T: 1:22.18. Tote: Rs 18 (w) 12, 16, 16 p; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 38; Fc: Rs 41; Q: Rs 23; Tri: Rs 113 & 76; Exp: Rs 1399 & 1330. TB: SS Attaollahi. Fav: Valiant Stream.

Jackpot: Rs 2702 & 575. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 880. **Treble I:** Rs 561. **Treble II:** Rs 223.

Trainer Pesi Shroff (right) receives the trophy from BTC chairman L Shivashankar after his horse D'Artagnan won the Karnataka Juvenile Million on Sunday.

Avani ends career-best T-5, Diksha finishes T-10

EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE), PTI: Indian golfers Avani Prashanth (**in pic**) and Diksha Dagar produced Top-10 finishes at the Jabra Ladies Open De France with steady final round performances.

Avani carded a final round of 2-under 69 to move to tied 5th, which equalled her career best result on the LET, while Diksha (71) ended T-9 to record her third top 10 result of the 2026 season.

Avani totalled 4-under par with rounds of 72-68-69 and Diksha shot 67-72-71 to be 3-under par for the week.

Rayhan slips

Rayhan Thomas had a difficult third round at the UNC Health Championship as he recorded his first over par round of the week in Raleigh, USA.

Thomas carded 3-over 73 to slip down the leaderboard to T-28. Thomas had been in prime position to register his first top 10 finish of the 2026 season, but slipped on Day 3.

Alvaro Ortiz leads the field with a score of 12-under par (67-62-69). Ortiz took the lead from Jeremy Paul after carding a round of 1-under 69.

Gukesh downs Pragg; Divya takes lead

OSLO, PTI

A day after turning 20, D Gukesh rediscovered both his spark and his smile, defeating compatriot R Praggnanandhaa in a gripping classical battle to pocket three full points and reignite his campaign in Norway Chess here

Young Indian women's World Cup outplayed China's Zhu Jiner in a classical game to claim three points and surge to the top of the six-player standings for the first time on 8.5 points.

In the Open category, Reigning champion Magnus Carlsen's woes deepened as he lost to American Grandmaster Wesley So, leaving the world No. 1 at the bottom of the six-player standings after five rounds.

Divya Deshmukh

D Gukesh

The victory lifted So to second place on 8.5 points, behind tournament leader Alireza Firouzja, who maintained his grip on the top spot with 10 points and has so far dominated the field.

Divya surges

After a day spent on a speedboat, Divya appeared to be on the back foot after Zhu introduced a fresh idea in the opening, but the game soon veered into uncharted territory.

Trusting her instincts, the Indian repeatedly found resourceful moves to stay in the fight as the balance gradually shifted. Zhu failed to seize a key opportunity to force a draw, allowing Divya to seize the initiative.

Results (Round 5): Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 10) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger, 5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 4.5) lt to Wesley So (USA, 8.5); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 6) lt to D Gukesh (Ind, 6.5).

Women: Zhu Jiner (Chn, 5) lt to Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 8.5); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 7) bt Bibisara Assaubeyeva (Kaz, 8); Ju Wenjun (Chn, 5) lt to Koneru Humpy (Ind, 4.5).

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"It feels superb. There were a lot of memories from last year but we had to stay in the present. Don't have words to express but feeling good.

RAJAT PATIDAR, RCB SKIPPER

Challengers drub Gujarat Titans to join CSK, MI in winning two successive titles

Royal repeat: Dominant B'luru stay on summit

Royal Challengers Bengaluru players celebrate with the IPL trophy after beating Gujarat Titans by five wickets at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. REUTERS

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A little less than a year after wiping away 17 years of agony when they scaled the summit of IPL for the first time, Royal Challengers Bengaluru extended their stay at the pinnacle for another year with a demolition of Gujarat Titans, albeit some hiccups.

On a hot summer Sunday night at the sold-out Narendra Stadium that felt more like a home game for the defending champions with red jerseys outnumbering blues comfortably, the Royal Challengers were clinical right from skipper Rajat Patidar winning the toss till the victory was sealed with a kiss.

First it was their bowling attack that set the game up nicely for their batters to complete the job with a splendid performance that restricted Gujarat to a below-par 155/8. Pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/29), Josh Hazlewood (2/37) and Rasikh Dar (3/27) brought their A game to the table while spinner Krunal Pandya (1/23) continued to turn the clock back with another frugal show in the middle overs to choke out a nervous GT.

RCB's in-form batters then ensured the road to glory won't be as heart-stopping as the one last year against Punjab Kings with chase master Virat Kohli (75 n.o. 42b) standing tall in the end with a knock from the vault. RCB chased down the target in 18 overs with five wickets to spare, becoming the third team after Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings to wear back-to-back crowns.

Venkatesh Iyer, who got the chance to play only at the fag end of the tournament following injuries to Phil Salt and his replacement Jacob Bethell, came charging out of the blocks along with talisman Kohli. Iyer, struggling with an injury and literally batting on one leg, smashed Kagiso Rabada for three fours and six in the second over to signal RCB's intentions. Kohli, who likes to bide his time, especially in chases, matched the southpaw's aggression as he belted Mohammed Siraj for two boundaries in the next over.

With both Iyer and Kohli finding their spark early on and going for the kill, runs started to come at a blinding speed. Iyer and Kohli showed no mercy on either Siraj or Rabada, taking the duo without any fear whatsoever. The fourth over when Kohli hammered Rabada for three fours and six — all shots of the highest quality against the Purple Cap holder — showed the mood the 37-year-old former captain was in.

Iyer departed following a 62-run partnership, but the southpaw had done his job in getting RCB off to a roaring start. Sometimes one wicket leads to another, and RCB lost a clutch of them in their high-speed pursuit. Devdutt Padikkal, Patidar and Krunal all perished within a blink of an eye as RCB slipped from 62/1 to 91/4 in 8.5 overs.

Although RCB were still ahead of the eight-ball, GT sensed a comeback from nowhere. Possessing a bowling attack as good as anyone's in the IPL, they hoped to cash in on the sudden shift in momentum. The wobbly ship needed a seasoned captain to calm the sudden storm, and RCB had one of the best the sport has seen, Kohli, out there. He curbed his aggression for a brief moment and urged his partner Tim David to swallow his ego and not throw caution to the wind.

Well ahead of the asking rate, they initially focused on taking singles but played the odd big shot to ensure RCB never reached an uncomfortable stage.

Brick by brick, they went about scaling down the target before David perished with 24 runs needed off 37 balls. But Kohli was there in the end to do it, this time tears giving way to raised arms.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 12 (12b, 2x4), Shubman Gill c Patidar b Hazlewood 10 (8b, 2x4), Nishant Sindhu c Padikkal b Dar 20 (18b, 3x4), Jos Buttler st Jitesh b Krunal 19 (23b, 1x4), Washington Sundar (not out) 50 (37b, 5x4), Arshad Khan c Dar b Hazlewood 15 (6b, 2x6), Rahul Tewatia c Patidar b Dar 7 (5b, 1x4), Jason Holder c Hazlewood b Bhuvneshwar 7 (5b, 1x4), Rashid Khan c Shepherd b Dar 7 (3b, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 3 (3b). Extras (LB-1, W-4) 5. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 155.**

Fall of wickets: 1-22 (Gill), 2-26 (Sudharsan), 3-55 (Sindhu), 4-73 (Buttler), 5-99 (Arshad), 6-115 (Tewatia), 7-142 (Holder), 8-151 (Rashid).

Bowling: Jacob Duffy 4-0-38-0 (w-4), Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-29-2, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-37-2 (w-1), Rasikh Dar 4-0-27-3, Krunal Pandya 4-0-23-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU: Venkatesh Iyer c Rabada b Siraj 32 (16b, 4x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 75 (42b, 9x4, 3x6), Devdutt Padikkal c Arshad b Rabada 1 (4b), Rajat Patidar c Rabada b Rashid 15 (13b, 1x4, 1x6), Krunal Pandya lbw Rashid 1 (2b), Tim David c Buttler b Arshad 24 (17b, 3x4, 1x6), Jitesh Sharma (not out) 11 (14b, 1x4). Extras (LB-1, W-1) 2. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 18 overs) 161.**

Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Venkatesh), 2-63 (Padikkal), 3-89 (Patidar), 4-91 (Krunal), 5-132 (David).

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-36-1 (w-1), Kagiso Rabada 3-0-44-1, Jason Holder 2-0-16-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-2, Arshad Khan 4-0-32-1, Prasidh Krishna 1-0-7-0.

Result: RCB won by 5 wkts.
PoM: Virat Kohli

There's no doubt about it (five titles in 11 years), everything is special. A lot of credit goes to the support staff. Glad that we have a hand on the trophy back to back. This is for the RCB fans, and also for Virat.

KRUNAL PANDYA

"I said to the boys that there doesn't seem to be the same kind of pressure that was there last year. Composure of the guys shone through tonight. Feel so happy to play in a group where we have balance and we knew what kind of ability we have.

VIRAT KOHLI

"We were not defending, we were chasing the title. The mindset changed there. Next year, we might have a third title as well.

JITESH SHARMA

"Trophy is important, happy to trade the Purple cap. Season went really well. There was a lot of planning. Confidence goes up when you pick wickets.

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

KEY FACTORS IN RCB'S TITLE-WINNING CAMPAIGN

Patidar leads from front

When **Rajat Patidar** was chosen to lead Royal Challengers Bengaluru last season it was met with mixed feelings although the right-hander had captained Madhya Pradesh with distinction. But the 32-year-old, like last season, has delivered. His captaincy has been calm on the field, he has marshalled the troops excellently and the at the same time upped his batting with some crucial knocks, being integral to RCB's stirring campaign.

Seasoned core delivers

Experience matters a lot, especially in a high-profile tournament like IPL, and RCB's core delivered as a unit for a second straight season. Ace batter Virat Kohli continued to create magic, young **Devdutt Padikkal** extended his impressive domestic form, Patidar provided the sparks in the middle while the seasoned bowling trio of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Krunal Pandya were consistently good. Krunal marvelled with the bat too.

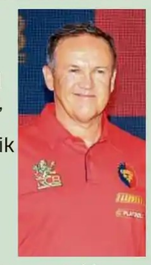
Unheralded step up

Apart from the core firing on all cylinders, what helped RCB significantly was players like **Rasikh Dar**, Venkatesh Iyer and Suyash Sharma stepping up their respective games. Rasikh, coming in a first or second change, picked up wickets in the middle-overs, Jacob Duffy served well in the absence of Hazlewood, Venkatesh, who was waiting for a chance to play, made them count in the playoffs, while Suyash ended up being a nice understudy to Krunal.

No baggage

For 17 seasons RCB chased the elusive trophy and often times faltered. But having lifted the monkey off their back last season, RCB have looked a different beast this year. They've played without fear, showed the calmness to nick the crunch moments and went about their job in an extremely professional manner. The management, before the season, said being champions was in the past and they are focused on creating a legacy. The players have done it.

Backroom calmness



Three minds who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes are head coach **Andy Flower**, mentor and batting coach Dinesh Karthik and Director of Cricket Mo Bobat. Flower, one of the most intellectual cricketing minds, and Bobat were instrumental in piecing together a strong team and changing the superstar culture that inhibited RCB from reaching their full potential. Karthik, very close to the players, has been the ideal bridge between management and players.

Compiled by Sidney Kiran

Sachin urges not to interfere with Vaibhav's natural instinct

MUMBAI, PTI

Sachin Tendulkar

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar hailed teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as a "truly special" talent, urging coaches and mentors not to interfere with the youngster's natural instincts as he continues his rapid rise in Indian cricket.

After becoming the youngest centurion in IPL history during his debut season last year, Sooryavanshi elevated his reputation even further this time with a string of fearless performances against some of the world's premier bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, Kagiso Rabada and Pat Cummins.

"Everyone is talking about Sooryavanshi, and I watched him bat; it was magnificent. I mean he is something truly special. And not just the ability to hit the ball, but what also fascinated me was the wrist work that he has," Tendulkar said at Cricinfo Honours.

The 15-year-old batter from Samastipur in Bihar amassed 776 runs at a staggering strike rate of 237.31 in the IPL this season, establishing himself as one of the most exciting young prospects in the game.

"To be able to play in all directions of the ground, you need good wrist work. And he is not slogging the ball. He is just picking the line and length earlier than the rest of the guys and he is able to clear the rope comfortably."

Tendulkar said he has little doubt that Sooryavanshi possesses the talent to represent India in Test cricket in the future, but cautioned against placing excessive expectations on the teenager too early in his career.

"I would tell him to just be himself. There is always a first time. In Test cricket, along with age, he will learn how to deal with various challenges. It's about having a solution-oriented mindset.

"Problems are always going to be there. Problems will be there till the last day of your career, till the last ball you face. The bowler is asking a question every ball. Now, what solutions do you find?

"He's kind of a player who looks very confident, very, very sure of what he wants to do and I would not want to play around with his natural instincts."

PSG's second CL 'even bigger'

BUDAPEST, AFP

Luis Enrique

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique described his team's second UEFA Champions League triumph as "even bigger" than their maiden European title a year ago, after the French club edged Arsenal on penalties in a tense final on Saturday.

"It is even bigger because we knew of the difficulties of playing against Arsenal, and for us as a team and a city it is incredible to win it," the Spaniard told broadcaster Canal Plus amid on-pitch celebrations at the Puskas Arena in Budapest.

PSG won 4-3 on penalties after recovering from conceding an early goal to draw 1-1 over 90 minutes and extra time.

Kai Havertz blasted English Premier League champions Arsenal into a sixth-minute lead in the Hungarian capital but PSG got a deserved equaliser when Ousmane Dembele converted a 65th-minute penalty following a foul on Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

Kvaratskhelia later had a shot deflected onto the post as Arsenal held on for extra time and then penalties.

Nuno Mendes was the only Paris player out of five to fail to score during the shoot-out, while Eberechi Eze had already missed for Arsenal before Gabriel blasted over with their last attempt.

"I think we have deserved it over the course of the season even if the final was really close-fought," added Luis Enrique, as PSG become the first team since Real Madrid between 2016 and 2018 to retain the Champions League trophy.

Having previously led Barcelona to the title in 2015, Luis Enrique becomes just the fifth manager to win three European Cups, after Carlo Ancelotti, Bob Paisley, Zinedine Zidane and Pep Guardiola.

The Qatar-backed outfit won European club football's biggest prize for the first time in their history last year with a 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan in Munich.

"It is a different emotion this time, it is incredible that we have done it back to back," said captain Marquinhos, who has been at PSG since 2013.

"We showed how much we wanted it. The coach said right at the start of the season that it is hard to win it, but it is even harder to win it twice.

"That was the objective for us and that was the mentality we showed today."

Minhas record-breaking debut leaves Aus in a spin

RAWALPINDI, AFP: Spinner Arafat Minhas **(in pic)** became the first Pakistan bowler to take five wickets on his ODI debut on Saturday as the hosts eased to a five-wicket win over Australia in the series opener in Rawalpindi.

Minhas finished with 5/32 as an under-strength Australia were bowled out for 200 in 44.1 overs before Pakistan chased down the target with 45 balls to spare for a memorable win in their 1,000th ODI.

Babar Azam struck 69 off 94 balls and Ghazi Ghori made an impressive 65 as Australia's inexperienced spinners failed to match their Pakistani counterparts on a dry pitch assisting the slow bowlers.

Azam and Ghori added 127 runs for the third wicket after the departures of Sahibzada Farhan (28) and Maaz Sadaqat (8) left Pakistan 49/2.

Azam hit four fours and a six, while Ghori's knock featured eight boundaries. Both eventually fell to paceman Nathan Ellis with victory in sight.

Australia are missing a host of key players including regular skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, alongside opener Travis Head.

Australia, sent in to bat, saw Matthew Renshaw hit 61 after opener Matthew Short scored 55, but the tourists struggled against Pakistan's spin assault, with eight wickets going to slow bowlers.

Brief scores: Australia: 200 all out in 44.1 overs (Matthew Short 55, Matt Renshaw 61; Abrar Ahmed 2-44, Arafat Minhas 5-32) lt to Pakistan: 202/5 in 42.3 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 28, Babar Azam 69, Ghazi Ghori 65; Nathan Ellis 2-45). **Result:** Pak won by 5 wkts. **PoM:** Arafat Minhas. **Series:** Pak lead three-match series 1-0.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com